Angel Heart

エンジェルハート

北条司 15

北条司

先日、雑誌のインタビューを受けた。「趣味はなんですか？」という質問に言葉が止まった。確かぁいろいろ趣味はあったはず……なんだっけ？　あれ？　何で思い出せない？　えぇ～っとぉ……あぁそうだ、自転車とかカメラとか映画とか……いくつか出てきた。でも、週刊連載始めて以来それらをする時間がなくなったんだ……今は何もしていない。以前やってても今はやってない、それって趣味かぁ？　いや、違うだろ……「え～っと……ありません。」そう答えるしかなかった。インタビュー後、何とか時間を見つけて、せめて映画くらい行こう！と決心した。

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BUNCH COMICS

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Umibozu
Ryo's close friend, an ex-killer who became a cafe owner after losing his sight

Shin-Hon Liu
Previous member of Azure Dragon, has come to like Glass Heart during the training

Kaori Makimura
Ryo's beloved partner Passed away due to a traffic accident.

Rya Saeba
Commonly known as City Hunter, a professional killer who mainly uses guns (cleaner of the city's dirt and rubbish). He immediately becomes aroused when he sees a beautiful lady

Joy Lowe
A star actress who visits Japan for promotional activities. Shanin is requested to become her body double

Miki
A young girl who brings good luck to those around her. Umibozu is entrusted to take care of her

Saeko Nogami
A high ranked police officer of Shinjuku. Is an old acquaintance of Kaori and Ryo

The Story Thus Far

A young girl, trained into a killing machine by a certain Taiwanese organization, tried killing herself, but was revived as the organization transplanted the heart of City Hunter's partner into her body. The revived and awakened Glass Heart, being affected by the heart's memory, left the organization and was lured to Shinjuku, where Ryo is.

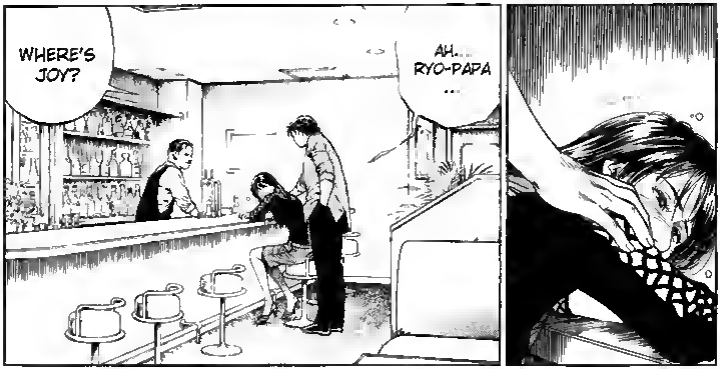
After acquiring the name Shanin, Glass Heart began the job of City Hunter.

Miki is Country A's king's illegitimate child!? Joy Lowe comes to Japan to promote a movie where she's an action actress and entrusts Shanin to be her body double. She, who was once the king's lover, is looking for the child who the belated king left in Japan. For that, Joy attracts the attention of the Country A's military. She makes sure Miki's the king's kid, and has just decided to leave Japan...

Shanin (Glass Heart)
A young girl trained into a killing machine by the organization. Left the organization after getting the heart transplant of Kaori (who passed away in an accident).

Chapter 155
Announcement

AH-SHAN ...
HEY, AH-SHAN!
BAR Kyrie
BAR Kyrie


WHERE'S JOY?
AH... RYO-PAPA ...

THE WOMAN WHO ACCOMPANIED YOU ALREADY PAID THE BILL AND LEFT..
IS... THAT BAD?

EH ...

...
JOY DISAP-PEARED?
準備中
NO, SHE HASN'T COME BACK HERE..
AH... I SEE... GOT IT...

...
WHERE'S MS. JOY? WHAT DID MR. SAEBA SAY?
IT SEEMS JOY WISHES FOR HER OWN DEATH.
AFTER CONFIRMING THAT MIKI IS HER BELOVED KING'S CHILD,
IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF SHE CONSIDERED HERSELF A DANGER TO MIKI. AND WHAT'S MORE, SHE CAN'T EVEN RETURN TO HER COUNTRY.
THIS WORLD HAS NOWHERE LEFT TO SUPPORT HER...
...
SHIN-HON?
I'M GONNA LOOK FOR HER!

HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN THIS TO MIKI IN THE MORNING?
ガラッ
ふぅ…

カラオケ
SKAL
個室
セクキャバ
ペロンチョ
Best
WZ
ん～
ふぁ～

Yaawn..
THAT'S ENOUGH. IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
IF I HAD ONLY HELD MYSELF TOGETHER, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE...

I'M SORRY ...
CLUB

...

クシャ・

GO LOOK AGAIN AFTER ALL!
I'M GONNA

WELCOME BACK.♡
NEVER MIND THAT. LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
JOY !?
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE KEY, TELLING ME TO COME BY ANYTIME?
OH!
ORIGINALLY I PLANNED ON A CLEAN DEATH I WAS OUT WANDERING THE STREETS...
So you secretly set up your female clients like this...
That's not what I meant—

.. SO THAT MEANS?

WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT...
BUT CONTRARY TO MY EXPECTATIONS, THEY COULDN'T FIND ME—
BUT I'M OVER THAT NOW ALREADY—

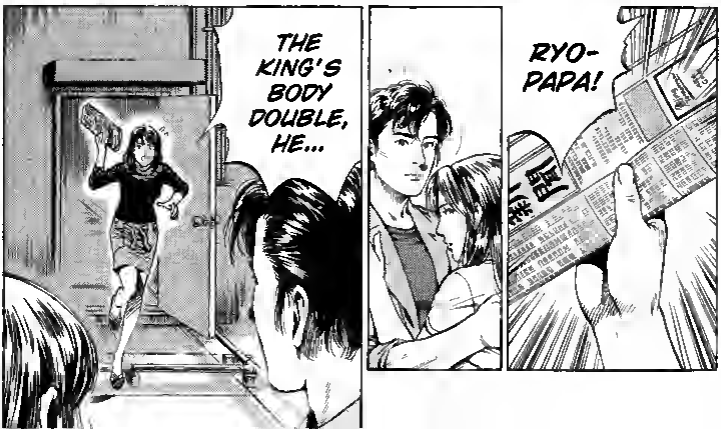
I... CAN I LIVE HERE?

I REALIZED THAT EVEN IF I DIED NOW... THERE'D STILL BE NO PLACE FOR ME ON THE OTHER SIDE..

...?
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SOMEONE ALREADY BEAT ME TO IT.
I'M SURE MIKI'S MOTHER AND HIM ARE VERY HAPPY RIGHT NOW!
I THOUGHT THAT IF I DIED, I COULD BE WITH THE KING, THE TWO OF US TOGETHER LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER..
Haha ha
Ha..
RYO WILL ACCEPT YOU...
IF YOU REALLY NEED HIM ..
...
I DON'T WANNA SEE THAT! AND HAVING TO SUFFER THE PAIN OF JEALOUSLY FOR ALL ETERNITY IS JUST TOO CRUEL!
I CAN'T DIE LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

YOU MET... KAORI?
YOUR WIFE, KAORI, SAID THAT TO ME.
!—
PROTECT ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?
WILL YOU...

ぎゅっ。
フッ
I WILL ...!
YEAH,
ぐっ…


THE KING'S BODY DOUBLE, HE...
RYO-PAPA!

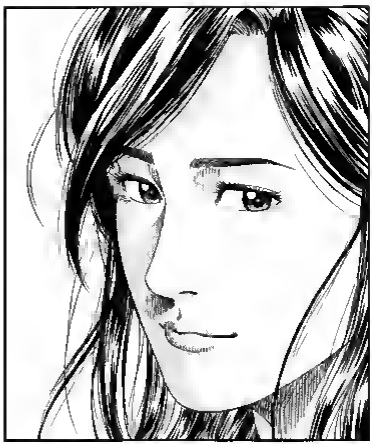
神 売 新 聞
200X
COUNTRY A'S KING FLEES TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRY
"ADMITS TB BEING A BODY BOUBLE! REAL KING WAS LONG DEAD!"
SHOCKING REVELATION!
IT SEEMS THEY COERCED HIM INTO PLAYING ALONG BY HOLDING HIS FAMILY HOSTAGE.
THIS ...
AFTER RESCUING HIS FAMILY, THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FACTION LED HIM INTO POLITICAL ASYLUM!
AS OF LAST NIGHT, THE SEARCH FOR YOU HAS BEEN CALLED OFF.
THEY'RE NOT AFTER YOU ANYMORE.

DON'T TELL ME... RYO-PAPA YOU...
RYO-PAPA!
I JUST LEAKED THAT INFORMATION TO THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FACTION.
WHEN I DID SOME RESEARCH ON THE BODY DOUBLE, I FOUND OUT THAT HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE
I'M...
THEN,

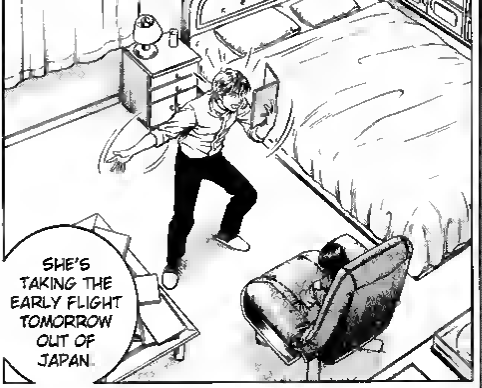
I have a bad feeling...
CONTINUE WHAT...?
NOW THEN— WE CAN GO TO MY ROOM AND TAKE OUR TIME CONTINUING WHAT WE STARTED EARLIER!
HUH? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
BUT IF I WERE THE FIRST TO LEAVE, THEN YOU WOULD HAVE TO FIND A WOMAN TO LOVE ..
IF YOU WERE TO LEAVE ME FIRST... THEN I WOULD CONTINUE TO LIVE ON WITH YOUR MEMORY...

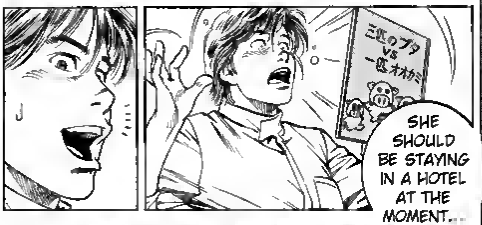
!!
BUT THAT'S ONLY IF KAORI WAS REALLY DEAD...
I'VE HAD IT WITH AFFAIRS!
INSIDE SHANIN.
KAORI IS ALIVE...
...
TO RETURN TO COUNTRY A.
I'VE DECIDED

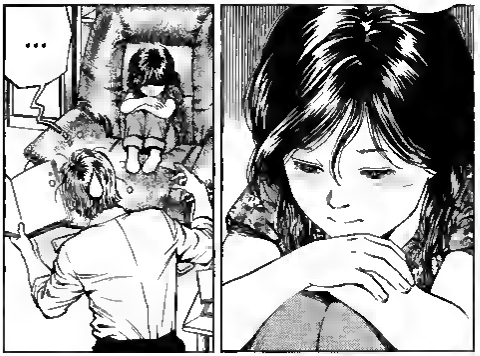
LIAR...
SAEBA RYO, LIFETIME MOKKORI FAILURE~!
IF I KNEW IT'D TURN OUT LIKE THIS, I WOULDN'T HAVE LEAKED THAT INFORMATION!
N-NO WAY!
THAT KAORI LIVES ON IN YOUR HEART, TOO
IT WAS THEN THAT I KNEW...
YOU HESITATED FOR A MOMENT BEFORE TAKING ME IN.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD FORGET A WOMAN WHO WOULD SAY THAT...
NO SURPRISE THERE...



Chapter 156 Family Picture


SHE'S TAKING THE EARLY FLIGHT TOMORROW OUT OF JAPAN.


SHE SHOULD BE STAYING IN A HOTEL AT THE MOMENT...


...

FOR EACH OTHER, THAT IS...
IF THEY WERE TO MEET ONLY TO SAY GOOD-BYE, IT WOULD BE MORE PAINFUL...

MS. JOY... SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF SAYING GOOD-BYE TO MIKI BEFORE SHE LEAVES...

BUT...
Pi ri ri ring
...
HEY, HELLO ...
GOLDEN ROAD'S ...
JONATHAN ...?
I'M HOPING THAT YOU COULD TAKE ME THERE FOR A STROLL.
YOU KNOW THAT STORE, RIGHT?

AREN'T YOU RETURNING BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY TOMORROW? WHAT INTEREST DO YOU HAVE IN A MESSY LITTLE STORE LIKE THAT?
HM .. JUST A SIMPLE INTEREST.
OI! HAVE YOU BEEN THERE BEFORE?
I REMEMBER IT BEING HERE SIX YEARS AGO..
THAT STORE ISN'T IN A POPULAR LOCATION. I HOPE IT'S NOT CLOSED DOWN.
Bar Jonathan
NOPE, NEVER BEEN
...

WELCOME ...
珍メニカス
HOPE WE DON'T GET NO EARTH-QUAKES COMIN' IN.
HUH...
...
YA FRIEND'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE E'ER SEEN HER.
OH, SO YOU DO STILL REMEMBER ME!
SO WE GOT OUR NIGHT'S FIRST CUS-TOMER, AND HAVEN'T SEEN YA IN TEN YEARS!
NAH, WAIT.. I THINK... WHERE HAVE I SEEN YA BEFORE?
BUT I FORGOT YA NAME, SWEET-HEART.

I THINK NEVER...
WELL, AIN'T YOU A REGULAR CASANOVA, ALWAYS BRINGIN' IN DIFFERENT LADIES EACH TIME.
HAHAHA. I JUST WANTED TO SAY AT LEAST THAT HASN'T CHANGED ..
THERE'S ONLY AN ODDBALL LIKE YOU AT THIS DUMP NOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER GIRLS?
THEY'RE STILL HERE NOW
HMM... WHERE?
YOU DROPPED YOUR LENSES OR SOMETHIN'?
THEY'RE BEHIND YA, THOSE GIRLS FROM THE PAST ERAS
!?

NO CLUE!
HEY, THIS GIRL IS FINE! WHAT'S HER NAME? WHERE DOES SHE LIVE? ♡
THEY SAID THEY WANNA JOB, SO I HIRE THEM. THAT'S ALL.
THE GIRLS HERE NEARLY ALL LEAVE WITH THE CUSTOMERS ...
ARE YOU KIDDING ME, ONLY PHOTOS.
...
DON'T BE EXPECTIN' NO RESUME FROM THEM.
...
JEEZ, WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS IS THIS!
CAN I STICK MY PHOTO ON THIS BOARD...
...
... JOY, WHAT'S UP...

GO AHEAD, CAN'T SEE WHY NOT.
HEY, THAT'S THE THING YOU TOOK WITH MIKI...
...
WHY PUT IT IN THE CORNER THERE, SHOULD PUT IT RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE...

...
THE MAN SHE TOOK THAT PHOTO WITH WOULD COME HERE ONCE OR TWICE EACH YEAR .. HE'D BE HERE EACH TIME HE CAME TO JAPAN FROM CHINA OR WHEREVER ..
THE PAIR OF THEM HAD CHEMISTRY... AND AFTER SATO LEFT, THAT GUY AIN'T BEEN HERE EVER SINCE ..
MADAM... THAT GIRL'S...
SATO... SHE WAITED TABLES 'BOUT SIX YEARS AGO FOR A WHILE.
AAAHH ...
SATO... THE SAME NAME AS MIKI'S MOTHER...
SIX YEARS AGO...
WHO KNOWS HOW BOTH OF THEM ARE GOIN'. HOPE THEY'RE HAPPY AT LEAST.
AHH.. THEY WOULDA BEEN TOGETHER BY NOW...

DID YOU KNOW...?
THAT THEY FIRST MET HERE...?
AT A PLACE... LIKE THIS?
COULD IT BE...
...
AND HOW HE MET HER..
HIS MAJESTY TOLD ME... WHEN HE WANTED TO TAKE A BREAK FROM HIS CIVIC DUTIES HE WOULD ALWAYS HEAD TO A PLACE TO RELAX
!
...
...
I THINK... YOU AND SATO ARE QUITE SIMILAR IN SOME RESPECTS ..

... MIKI ...
MISS JOY!
MS. JOY ...
I THOUGHT THAT YOU SHOULD SAY GOODBYE FACE TO FACE BEFORE YOU LEAVE
TOMOR-ROW. .
Bar Jonathan
YOU'RE LEAVING, EH...
...

AND THEN ...
I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN...
NOT EXACTLY .. I'LL STILL COME BACK TO SEE YOU...
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE . BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
... REALLY ...
Bar
桂
THEN ...
MIKI WON'T SAY GOODBYE!
チャラ...

SO...
THAT LADY AND SATO HAVE SOME KINDA THING GOIN' ON...
COMING HERE BEFORE LEAVING JAPAN ..
IS IT TO SETTLE HER OWN FEELINGS? I GUESS THAT SORT OF FINISHES HER WISH...
THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE MIKI'S PARENTS MET.
...
AND NOW... THE FAMILY'S FINALLY TOGETHER.

...
OKAY
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, PRETEND THAT THIS IS ME!
I DEFINITELY WILL...
I WILL ...

DEFINITELY, I DEFINITELY WILL...
BAR
ARTH
桂
Angel

I...
STILL HAVEN'T SETTLED MY OWN EMOTIONS ...
NEXT TIME WE MEET.. I HOPE TO TURN THOSE THINGS INTO MEMORIES...
YEAH ...
AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES...

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TURN HER...
INTO MEMORIES ...
NEXT TIME WE MEET, THERE'LL SIMPLY BE A MAN AND WOMAN...

Chapter 157 Ryo's Cell Phone Life

RRIIIING
INCOMING CALL
RING
AH, HELLO ...
RRIIIING
RRIIIING
Flustered
RRIIIING
!
RRIIIING
...!
RRIIIING

RRING
AH...
GONE!
RYO-PAPA, WHAT'S WRONG...
GONE, GONE! IT'S GONE!
...

...?
COULD I HAVE... LOST IT ...
...
To ru ru ru
TAP TAP
To ru ru ru
COFFEE HOUSE CAT'S-EYE
HE SAYS HE LOST HIS CELL PHONE.
WHAT'S HE ALL ANNOYED ABOUT?
To ru ru ru...
...? ISN'T HE HOLDING IT RIGHT NOW?

FOR WOMEN ONLY...
I USE THIS ONE FOR WORK, I LOST THE ONE I USE FOR WOMEN ONLY!
DAMN! NO ONE'S ANSWERING!
BEEP!
AND THERE'S MORE... SEE, THIS IS FOR GUYS USE ONLY...
BINGO! YOU GOT IT!
I THINK YOU'RE JUST USING IT TO HIT ON GIRLS FROM CLUBS RIGHT?
ALL OF THOSE ARE COERCED FROM THE YAKUZA, SO OF COURSE, THEY PAY THE BILLS!
SO THEN, YOUR BILLS MUST BE ASTRONOMICAL...
THIS IS FOR INFO, THIS ONE'S FOR FRIENDS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE, THIS ONE IS FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE
AH— I SEE—
I ALSO HAVE ONE OF THEM.
OI, HOW MANY DO YOU CARRY? YOU MIGHT GET RADIATION FROM THOSE, YA KNOW.

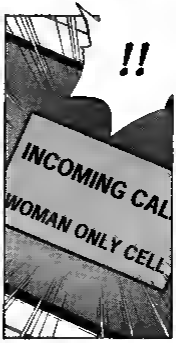
I'M SURE THAT SOMEONE STOLE IT!
I JUST FOUND OUT THIS MORNING.

PROBABLY YESTER-DAY...
THAT ONE YOU USE FOR WOMEN, WHEN DID YOU LOSE IT?

HMPH, YOU CAN ONLY BLAME YOUR LACK OF ATTENTION ON YOURSELF.
SHIT! I WORKED SO HARD TO COL-LECT THOSE 486 GIRLS' NUMBERS, THEN IT HAD TO GET STOLEN BY SOMEONE!

BUT THEN THEY HUNG UP WITH-OUT SAYING A WORD! AND NOW THEY WON'T ANSWER NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALL!
I USED THIS TO CALL THE PHONE I LOST, AND SOMEONE PICKED UP.
Ha ha ha!
It'll be better if you don't find it!

THE ONE WHO STOLE MY CELL PHONE!
HEY, IT'S YOU ~!


!!
INCOMING CAL
WOMAN ONLY CELL

RRRIII NG

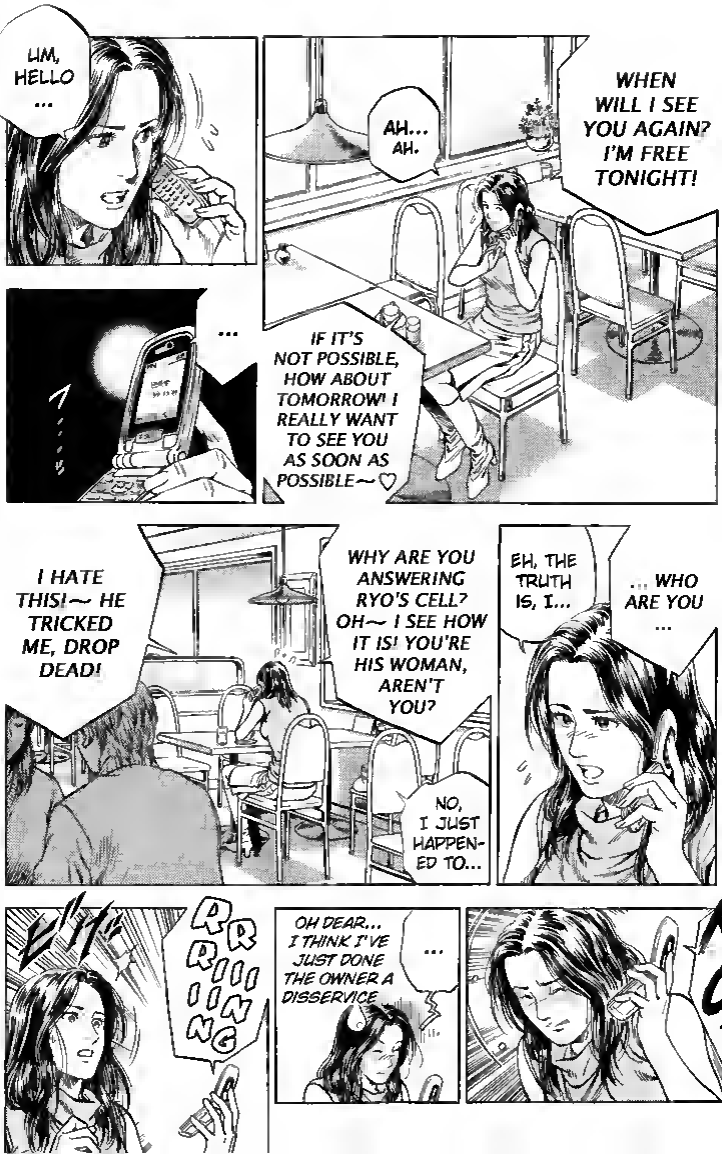
PLEASE OON'T SHOUT!
SAY SOME-THING! HEY...
...
YOU'RE SAYING I STOLE IT!? SHAME ON YOU! AND I WAS NICE ENOUGH TO HOLD ONTO IT FOR YOU!
... A WOMAN?
!
Café
... WHO'S THE ONE THAT'S SHOUT-ING...

HERE IT IS.
スッ
…

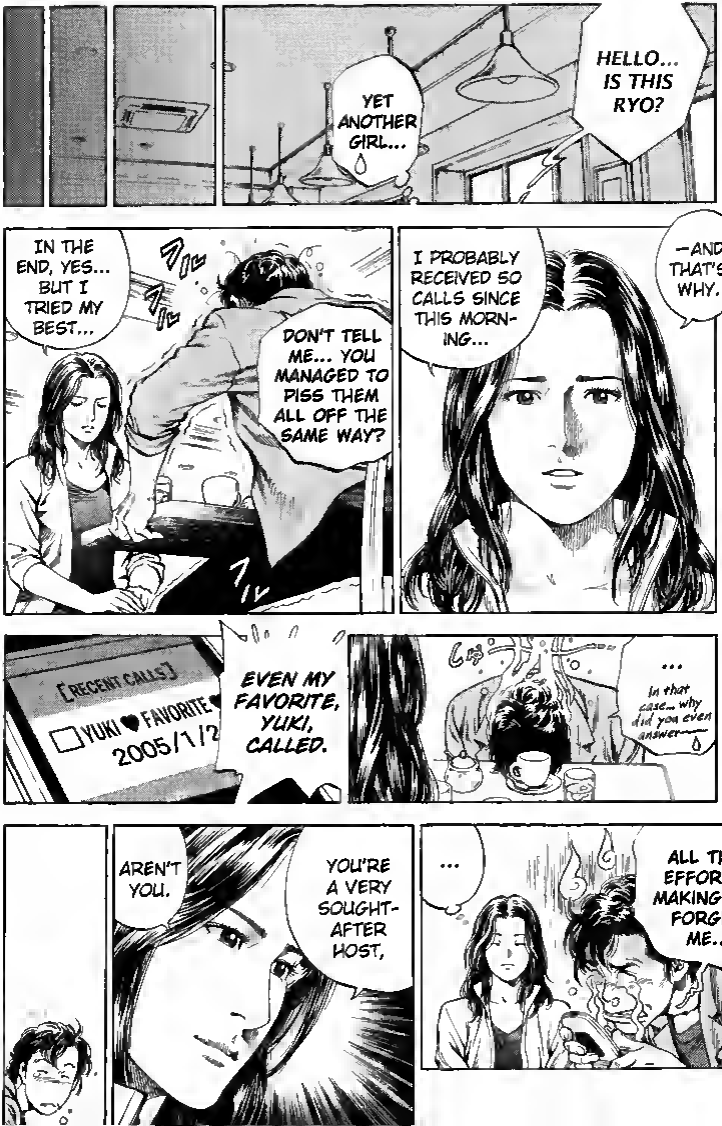
ズ…
EH…?
MOKKORI … ♡

…?
スッ

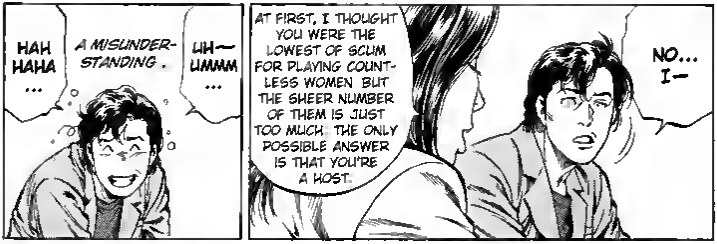
YOU LOOKED?
YEP!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A PHONE RECEIVING SO MANY CALLS.
I DIDN'T LOOK BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME, HAVING LOST YOUR CELL PHONE FOR WORK
I'M SURPRISED, THE MEMORY'S FULL OF WOMEN.
HA...?
MUST BE A CALL FROM THE OWNER
...
RRRIIING
RRIING...
HE...
RYO~♡ THANKS FOR THE TREAT YESTERDAY!

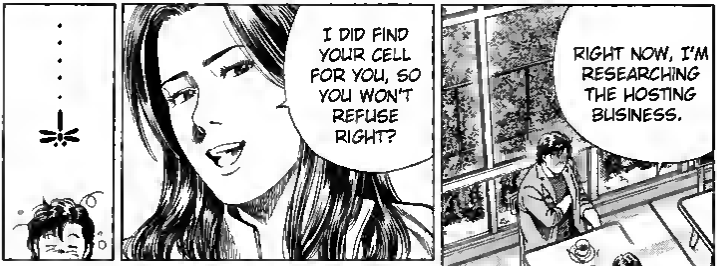

LIM, HELLO ...
AH... AH.
WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN? I'M FREE TONIGHT!
...
IF IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, HOW ABOUT TOMORROW! I REALLY WANT TO SEE YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE~♡
I HATE THIS!~ HE TRICKED ME, DROP DEAD!
WHY ARE YOU ANSWERING RYO'S CELL? OH~ I SEE HOW IT IS! YOU'RE HIS WOMAN, AREN'T YOU?
NO, I JUST HAPPENED TO...
EH, THE TRUTH IS, I...
... WHO ARE YOU ...
RRRIING
OH DEAR... I THINK I'VE JUST DONE THE OWNER A DISSERVICE
...
KA CHI

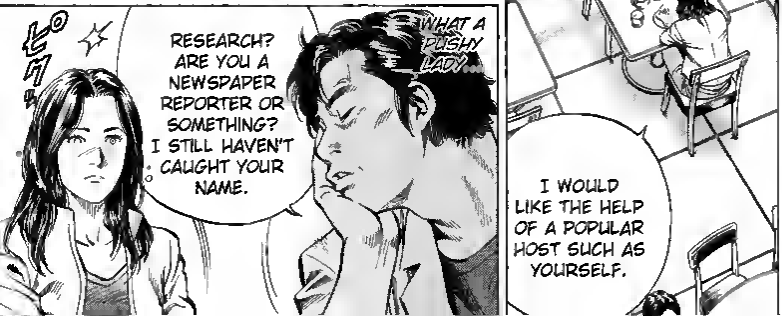
...?
...
...
HELLO! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, I JUST—
MAYBE IT'S THE PERSON WHO JUST CALLED! I BETTER CLEAR THIS MISUNDERSTANDING
THIS ISN'T THE SAME GIRL FROM BEFORE—!
sob.. YOU'RE SO MEAN... RYO...
sob
とぉ——ん
HELLO ...?
...
.. sob ..
RRIING
THE OWNER OF THIS PHONE, RYO... HE'S TWO TIMING...
...
WAI...
CH!...


HELLO... IS THIS RYO?
YET ANOTHER GIRL...
IN THE END, YES... BUT I TRIED MY BEST...
DON'T TELL ME... YOU MANAGED TO PISS THEM ALL OFF THE SAME WAY?
I PROBABLY RECEIVED 50 CALLS SINCE THIS MORNING...
—AND THAT'S WHY.
[RECENT CALLS]
YUKI ♥ FAVORITE ♥
2005/1/2
EVEN MY FAVORITE, YUKI, CALLED.
...
In that case... why did you even answer——
AREN'T YOU.
YOU'RE A VERY SOUGHT-AFTER HOST,
...
ALL THAT EFFORT IN MAKING HER FORGIVE ME...

BEING ABLE TO GET 500 GIRLS' NUMBERS IN YOUR PHONE— WHO OTHER THAN A MALE HOST COULD DO THAT?
HOST ...?

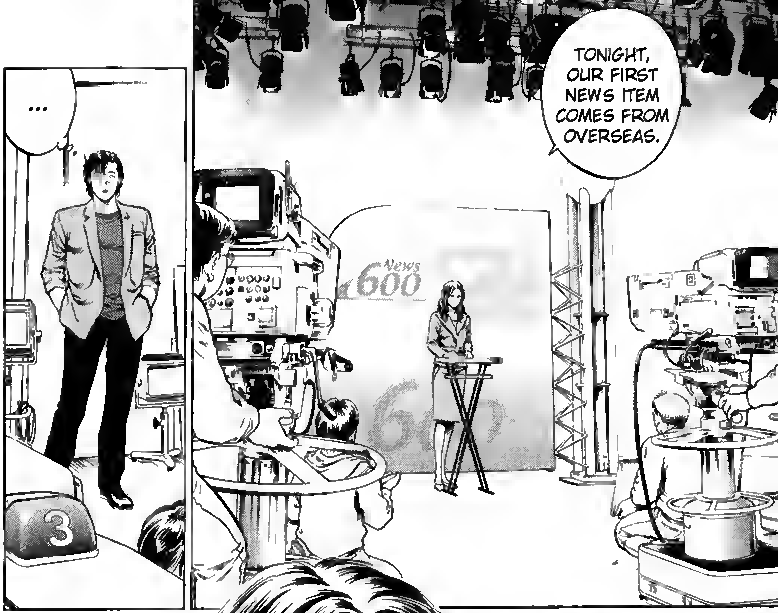

HAH HAHA ...
A MISUNDER-STANDING.
UH— UMMM ...
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE LOWEST OF SCUM FOR PLAYING COUNT-LESS WOMEN. BUT THE SHEER NUMBER OF THEM IS JUST TOO MUCH. THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER IS THAT YOU'RE A HOST.
NO... I—

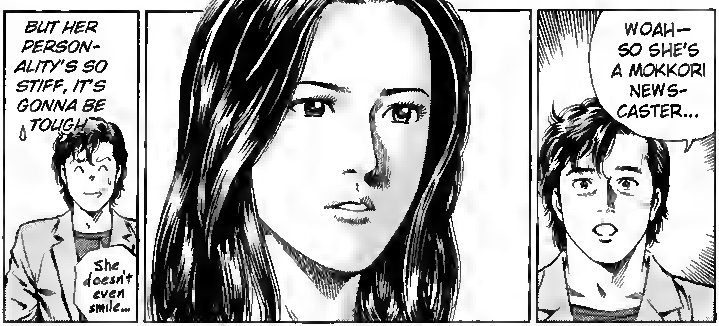

. . . . . !
I DID FIND YOUR CELL FOR YOU, SO YOU WON'T REFUSE RIGHT?
RIGHT NOW, I'M RESEARCHING THE HOSTING BUSINESS.

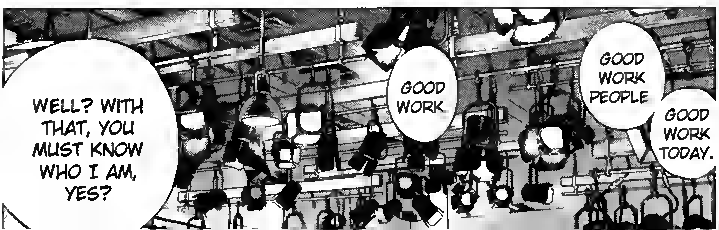

HMM
RESEARCH? ARE YOU A NEWSPAPER REPORTER OR SOMETHING? I STILL HAVEN'T CAUGHT YOUR NAME.
WHAT A PUSHY LADY...
I WOULD LIKE THE HELP OF A POPULAR HOST SUCH AS YOURSELF.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM!? I'M SITTING RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, AND YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS FACE?
...?
...
MY FACE SERVES AS MY BUSINESS LAKU...!
KYAH!

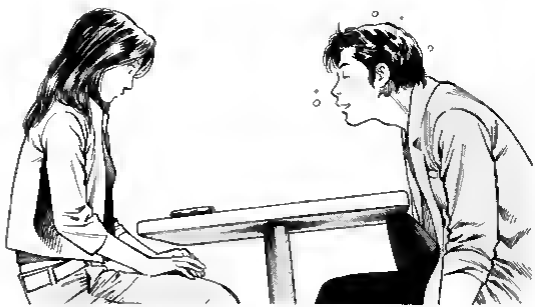
AH, ARE YOUR CLOTHES ALRIGHT?
IT'S ALRIGHT, I HAVE A CLEAN SET AT THE TV STATION.
AH... I HAVE TO WORK, PLEASE COME AND FOLLOW ME!
TV STATION?
♪♪
News 600
GOOD EVENING, IT'S NOW TIME FOR NEWS 600.
I'M YOUR NEWSCASTER, ASAKURA TOMOMI.


...
TONIGHT, OUR FIRST NEWS ITEM COMES FROM OVERSEAS.
News 600
3


BUT HER PERSONALITY'S SO STIFF, IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH...
She doesn't even smile...
WOAH— SO SHE'S A MOKKORI NEWSCASTER...


WELL? WITH THAT, YOU MUST KNOW WHO I AM, YES?
GOOD WORK
GOOD WORK PEOPLE
GOOD WORK TODAY.

YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO SAY THAT...
WELL, I DON'T REALLY WATCH TV, SO I HADN'T HEARD OF YOU.
...!
I SAID THAT'S NOT...
I GUESS HOSTS JUST AREN'T INTERESTED IN THE NEWS.
HURRY! MY RESEARCH IS A BATTLE AGAINST TIME!
COME ON, HURRY AND SHOW ME WHERE YOU WORK.
AT LEAST I GET TO DATE A MOKKORI NEWSCASTER
Okey okey.
AH... FORGET IT
Don't be so sluggish!



Chapter 158 Reason For Being Loved
Host Club
Nightmare
WEL-
COME!
WELCOME TO THE NIGHTMARE HOST CLUB!
...

GREETINGS MR. RYO.
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK MR. RYO.
PLEASE ESCORT THIS MISS TO THE VIP ROOM.
SO THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU WORK...
YES, THE MANAGER AGREED TO YOUR RE-SEARCH.
YOU'RE GONNA FIND OUT WHAT A HOST CLUB IS ALL ABOUT TONIGHT!
AH— YOU'RE ASAKURA FROM NEWS 600!
REALLY? HERE, IN PERSON!?
WOW!
SO YOUR SHOW IS GOING TO BE ABOUT US?
HEY, RYO!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THIS TIME?
CALLIN' ME OUTTA THE BLUE AND SAYING YOU WANNA PLAY HOST HERE TONIGHT...
YOU'RE NOT MAKING THE MOVES ON HER, NO?

THAT'S ALL IT IS, MANAGER!
...?
I SAID IT ON THE PHONE, I'M JUST HELPING HER WITH HER RESEARCH.
WELCOME, PLEASE COME IN!
... THIS PLACE ...
IS AMAZING ...
WELL— THIS IS RARE! IF IT ISN'T RYO!

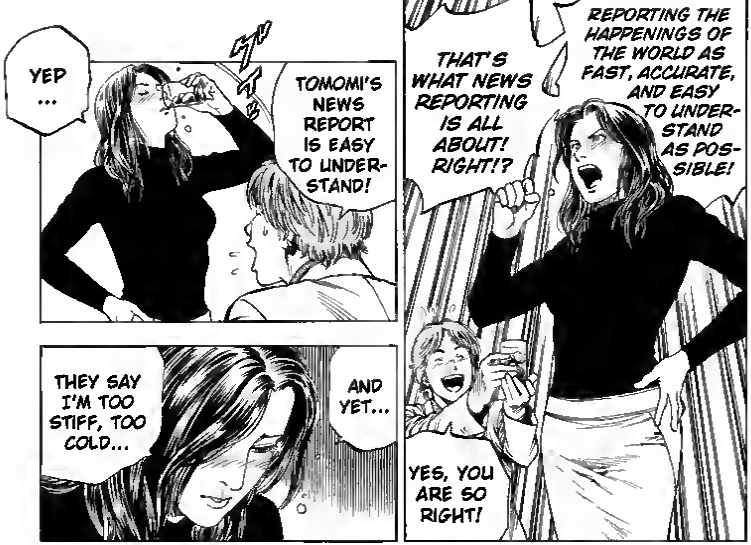
HEHE... REALLY, WELCOMING ME LIKE THAT... IT'S AS IF HE'S ONE OF THE HOSTS HERE.
OH... MS. PRESIDENT, WELCOME.
SO RYO'S A HOST FOR A DAY?
MS. PRESIDENT...
WHO IS...
SO SHE WANTS TO INVITE YOU?
SHE'S A FREQUENT GUEST WHO COMES AT LEAST ONCE EVERY WEEK.
THE PRESIDENT OF HOKKAIDO'S FAMOUS PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING COMPANY.
INTERESTING. HOW ABOUT IT YOUNG LADY, WON'T YOU JOIN US?

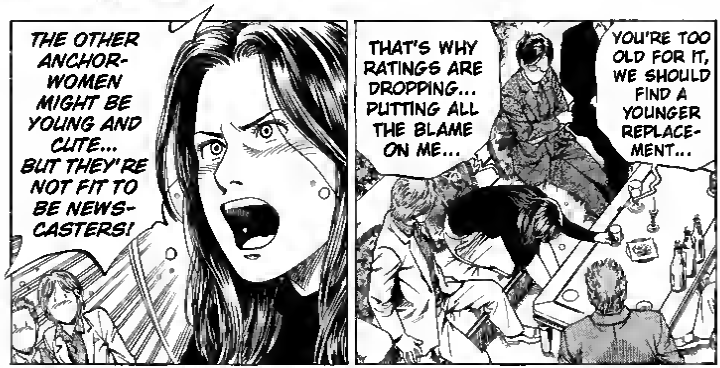
REALLY? IT SEEMS WE ARE WORLDS APART...
UNDERSTANDING THE CLIENTS WILL HELP IN YOUR RESEARCH, RIGHT?
YEAH ...
YES, A NIGHT HERE WILL COST THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN
SHE COMES HERE ALL THE WAY FROM HOKKAIDO?
HA HAHA HA...
AH HAHA HAHA HA!
CHA CHA ♫CHA—
Dinner Club Nightmare
...
...!
AH— HAHA HA!
GREAT, MR. RYO!
CHA CHA LALA— ♪
AHA HAHA!
MASTERFULLY DONE!

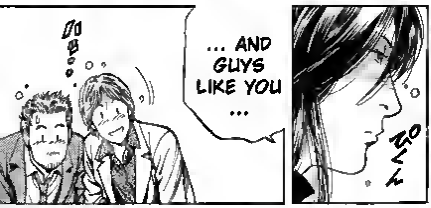
...
...
YOU'RE SUCH A BORE...
I AM DOING RESEARCH AT THE MOMENT, I DON'T DRINK WHEN I'M WORKING.
HMM ...?
OH MY, YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DRINK SINCE YOU ENTERED ...
WHEN IT'S TIME TO BE HAPPY, YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY. WHEN IT'S TIME TO DRINK WINE, YOU MUST HAVE A DRINK.
RELAX AND FORGET ABOUT THE TIME! ONLY THEN WILL YOU UNDERSTAND ITS ESSENCE.
FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU, IT'S USELESS TO COME HERE NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EH...
DO YOU FIND MY SHOW BORING?
THAT'S WHY YOUR SHOW IS A BORE, TOO!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE A GOOD BABY THEN, RIGHT?

SEE... HE'S NOT BEING HONEST WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT BEING HONEST WITH YOURSELF.
O-OF COURSE NOT— RIGHT!?
YEAH! I WATCH IT ALL THE TIME.
...
COME ON...
Another one!
Alright!

JUST TO THE REST-ROOM...
RYO, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
Uwoo Great—! Cheers!
Uwa Waha!
...
THE REST IS UP TO YOU, TOMOMI!
I'VE INTRO-DUCED YOU TO THIS PLACE, NOW WE'RE EVEN.
I GIVE IT MY ALL!
THAT'S MY CALLING!
REPORT-ING THE NEWS...


YEP ...
TOMOMI'S NEWS REPORT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND!
THAT'S WHAT NEWS REPORTING IS ALL ABOUT! RIGHT!?
REPORTING THE HAPPENINGS OF THE WORLD AS FAST, ACCURATE, AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND AS POSSIBLE!
YES, YOU ARE SO RIGHT!
AND YET...
THEY SAY I'M TOO STIFF, TOO COLD...


THE OTHER ANCHORWOMEN MIGHT BE YOUNG AND CUTE... BUT THEY'RE NOT FIT TO BE NEWSCASTERS!
THAT'S WHY RATINGS ARE DROPPING... PUTTING ALL THE BLAME ON ME...
YOU'RE TOO OLD FOR IT, WE SHOULD FIND A YOUNGER REPLACEMENT...


... AND GUYS LIKE YOU ...

AH... YEAH I DO THAT TOO. ♡
Holdin' the remote control, ya know...
BUT WHEN SURFING CHANNELS, SEEING A YOUNG NEWSCASTER, YOU STOP TO WATCH RIGHT?

BUT IF YOU SMILE A LITTLE MORE, THOSE WATCHING IDOL SHOWS WOULD PROBABLY WATCH THE NEWS RIGHT?
RIGHT, RIGHT!
JUST GO WATCH IDOL SHOWS! WHY BOTHER WATCHING THE NEWS?
FEELS LIKE I'M BEEN SCOLDED BY MY MOM BY WATCHING ...
...
IT'S SO FORMAL, REALLY BORING...
YEAH, IT'S TOO DEADBEAT SERIOUS.
RYO WENT BACK ALREADY.
...?
Huh... where is he?
WAH— ENOUGH, I DON'T WANT YOU HOSTS TO WATCH MY SHOW!
EVEN THE NO. 1 HOST RYO HASN'T SEEN IT!

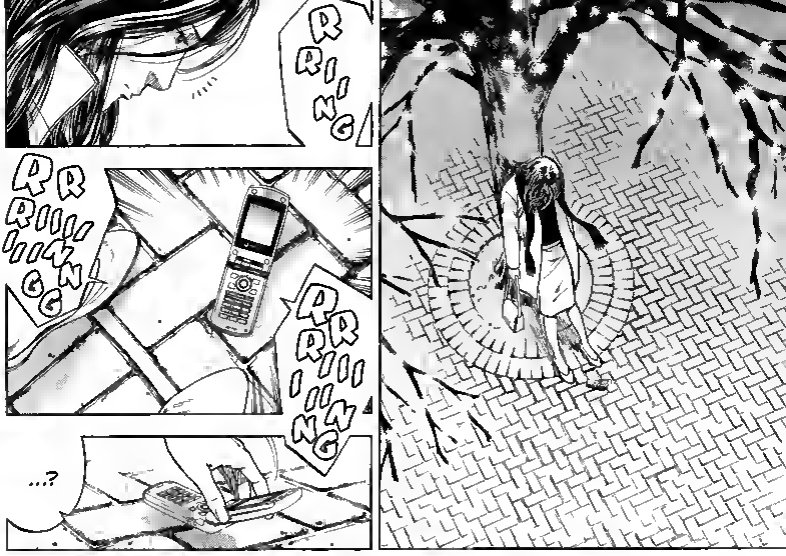
THAT ASSHOLE... HOW CAN A HOST LEAVE HIS CUSTOMER LIKE THIS—
LET ME TELL YOU THIS...
RYO, HE ISN'T A HOST.
IMPOSSIBLE...
IF HE'S NOT A HOST, THEN WHAT IS HE? HIS CELL PHONE HAS NUMBERS OF 500 GIRLS... AND THEY CALL HIM MULTIPLE TIMES A DAY...
THAT IS BECAUSE HE IS POPULAR.
EVEN ME...
IF I WERE TEN YEARS YOUNGER, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LET GO OF ♡ HIM...
Ms. president—
THEN ...
ISN'T HE JUST A PLAYER? A CHEATING SLEAZEBALL!
PLEASE DON'T SAY BAD STUFF ABOUT MR. RYO!
HE ISN'T LIKE WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
HE REALLY TAKES CARE OF US!

HUH ...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?
WHY ARE YOU GUYS VOUCHING FOR HIM... DO YOU LIKE HIM?
BUT MR. RYO, HE'S ABLE TO MAKE THE DREAMS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY COME TRUE.
YEAH .. HE'S AMAZING. PEOPLE LIKE US, WE CAN ONLY BEGIN TO DREAM IN THIS SMALL PLACE...
...
IN YOUR LINE OF WORK, YOU HAVE TO BE LIKED BY EVERYONE IN JAPAN, RIGHT?
YOU COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM RYO.
SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FALLEN IN LOVE YET.
AND THAT IS WHY YOU DON'T KNOW THE VALUE OF A GOOD MAN.

I'M LEAVING ...
フフ...
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP...
LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM THAT CHEATER!?
To ru ru ru
TELLING ME HE'S A HOST, DECEIVING ME...
フフ...
フフ...
SERIOUSLY ... WHAT A JOKE—
BEEP
YES... HELLO, THIS IS RYO.
Beep Beep Beep

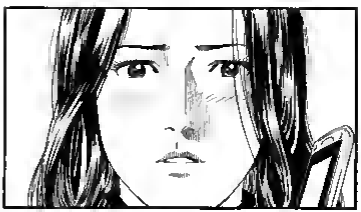
OAUGH-TER—?
SORRY! RYO'S GOT A DAUGHTER, SO HE HAS TO GO HOME EARLY.
WHY YOU, YOU FAKE HOST! WHY DID YOU LEAVE BEFORE ME?
AH, IT'S TOMOMI!
IT'S THE TRUTH!
ENOUGH OF YOUR LIES, AS IF YOU'D HAVE A KID...
... WHO ... ARE YOU?
CALL YOU ON YOUR CELL?
DO SO MANY PEOPLE ...
WHY...
...?
...
I'VE NEVER USEO MY CELL FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN WORK.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU? WHY OO PEOPLE LIKE YOU SO MUCH?
CALL AFTER CALL...

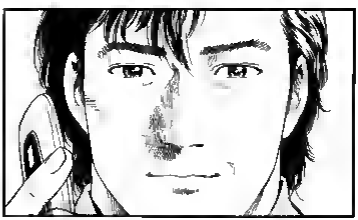
I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY FRIENDS OR A BOY-FRIEND.
OH RIGHT! AS IF ANYONE WOULD CALL ME!
NOT EVEN ONCE.
NOT FOR FRIENDS, NOR FOR RELATION-SHIPS...
DON'T SCREW WITH ME!
EH ...?
TU!!!
TU!!!
TU!!!
CALL ENDED
...


RRING
RRIIIINGG
RRIIING
...?

I'M PRETTY PERSIS-TENT!
YOOHOO! IT'S YOUR FRIENO, RYO!
... YES ...
NG...
I'LL KEEP CHASING AFTER YOU UNTIL I WIN!
I'LL FLIRT WITH YOU EVERY DAY ON THE PHONE FROM NOW ON!
BUT NOW I'M GOING TO TRY TO WIN YOU OVER ANO GRADUATE FROM BEING JUST YOUR FRIENO

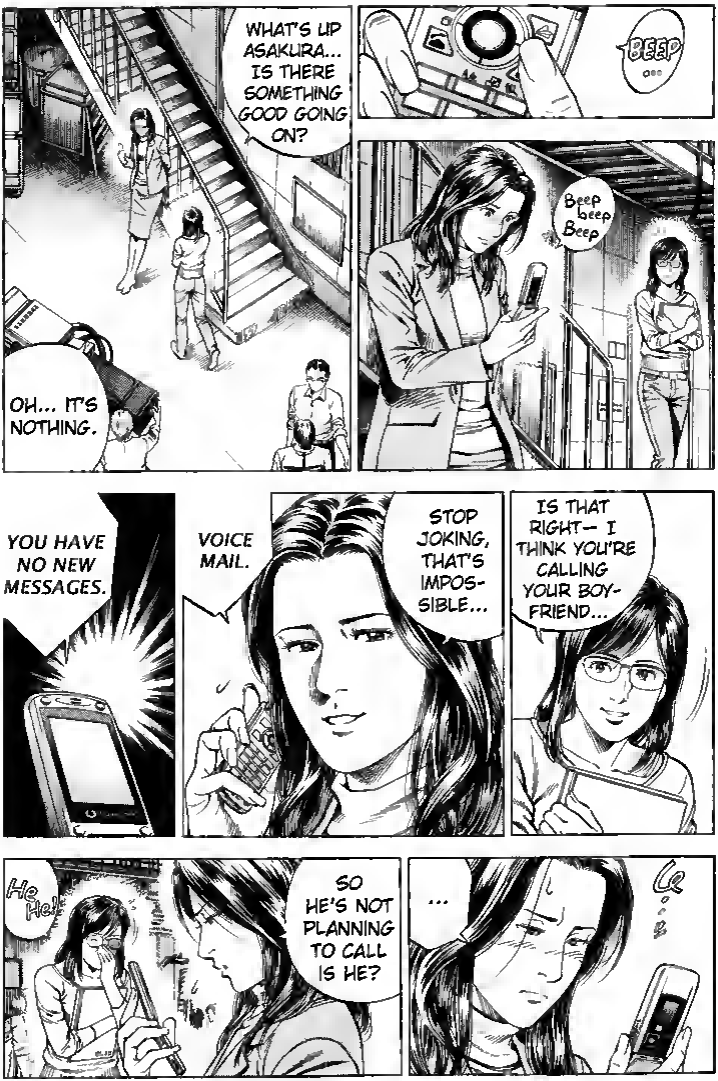
SO GET READY!
YEAH ...
CALL AWAITING

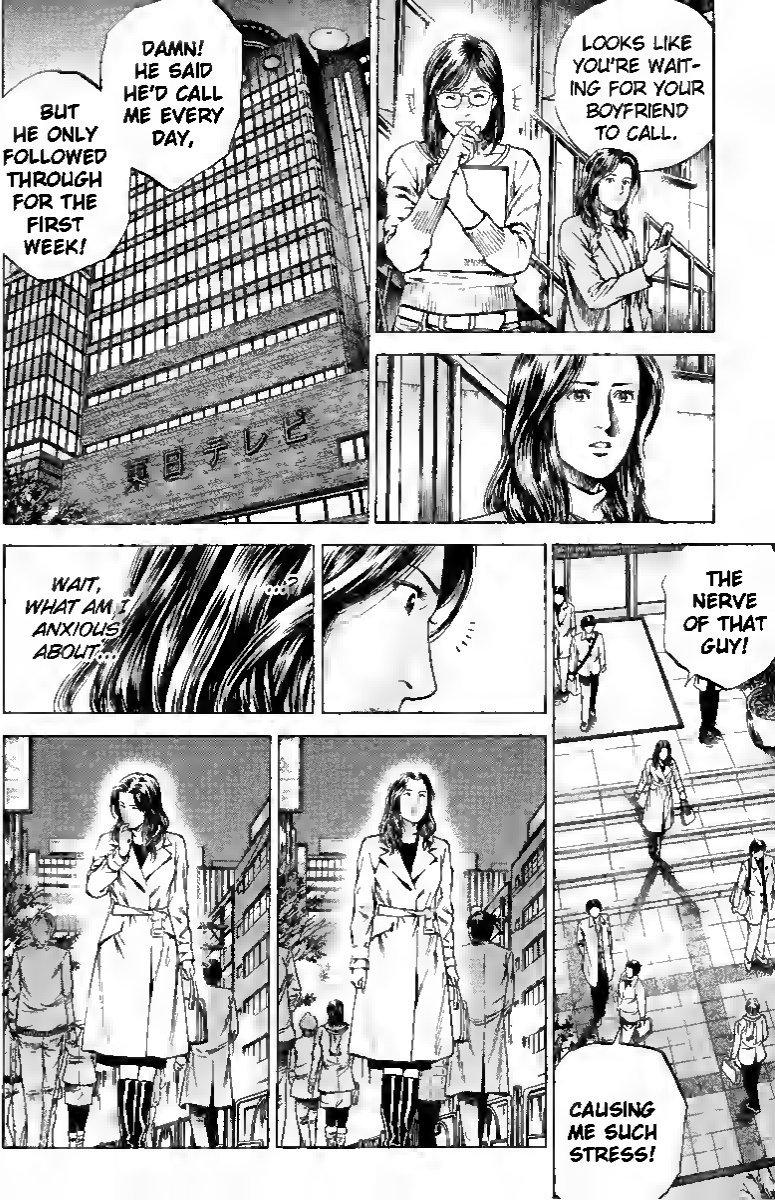




Chapter 159 Love S-I-G-N

SEE YOU AGAIN AT THIS TIME TOMORROW.
ニコッ
SHE SMILED A LITTLE JUST NOW...
IMPOS-SIBLE...
YE-YEAH ...
THANKS EVERYONE FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
YOU'RE WEL-COME.
IT SEEMS SHE'S LIVENED UP A BIT LATELY. MAYBE SHE'S JUST HAPPY... ISN'T SHE ACTING STRANGE?
GOOD WORK.
EH— WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED HER TO CHANGE?

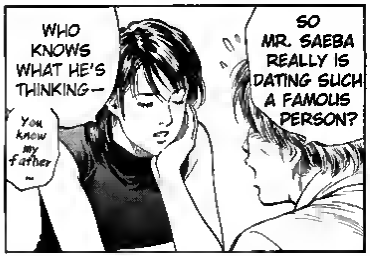

WHAT'S UP ASAKURA... IS THERE SOMETHING GOOD GOING ON?
OH... IT'S NOTHING.
BEEP
Beep beep Beep
YOU HAVE NO NEW MESSAGES.
VOICE MAIL.
STOP JOKING, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
IS THAT RIGHT— I THINK YOU'RE CALLING YOUR BOYFRIEND...
He He!
SO HE'S NOT PLANNING TO CALL IS HE?
...

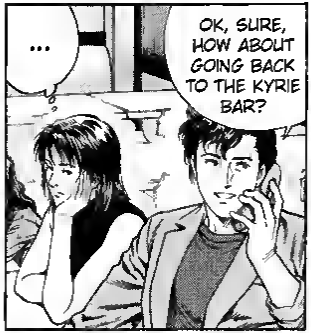

DAMN! HE SAID HE'D CALL ME EVERY DAY,
BUT HE ONLY FOLLOWED THROUGH FOR THE FIRST WEEK!
東日テレビ
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE WAITING FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND TO CALL.
WAIT, WHAT AM I ANXIOUS ABOUT...
...?
THE NERVE OF THAT GUY!
CAUSING ME SUCH STRESS!

COULD IT BE... I...
YOU'RE WAITING FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND TO CALL...!
RRIIINNG
CAT HOUSE
PRIIING
OH, IT'S TOMO!
BEEP!
WHY, HELLO THERE!
MR. SAEBA, BY "TOMO" YOU MEAN ...
YEAH, THAT NEWS-CASTER...

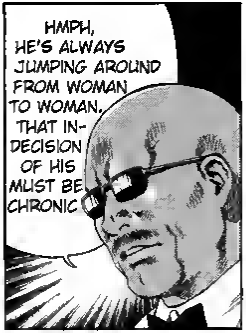
I'VE BEEN A LITTLE BUSY—
AH... SORRY, SORRY!

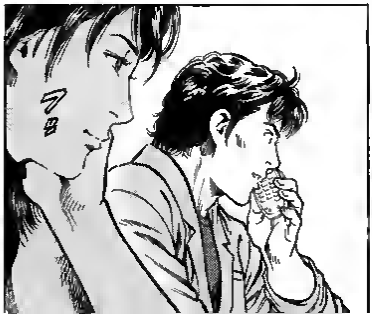
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?


WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S THINKING—
You know my father—
SO MR. SAEBA REALLY IS DATING SUCH A FAMOUS PERSON?

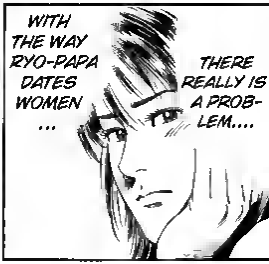

...
OK, SURE, HOW ABOUT GOING BACK TO THE KYRIE BAR?

I'M GOING TO PUNISH YOU, SO WE MUST MEET TODAY, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
PUNISH ~~~?


HMPH, HE'S ALWAYS JUMPING AROUND FROM WOMAN TO WOMAN. THAT INDECISION OF HIS MUST BE CHRONIC



KYRIE...
HM?

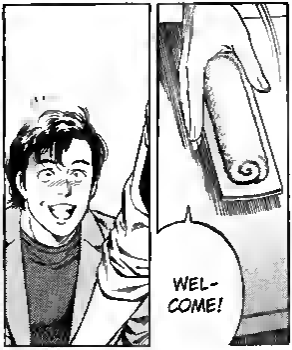

WITH THE WAY RYO-PAPA DATES WOMEN ...
THERE REALLY IS A PROBLEM....

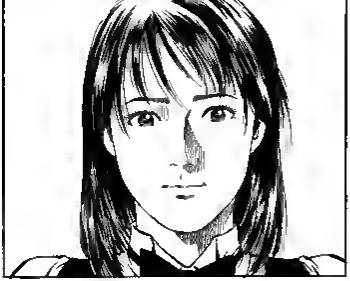
BAR
Kyrie
YOU'RE SO LATE ...

...
SORRY, EVERYONE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR ME—
I'm just too popular.

IT'S ALREADY BEEN 18 MINUTES!

WILL YOU BE HAVING THE USUAL, MR. SAEBA?
カ・ヒ・ヨ・ー・ン


WEL-COME!



N-NO, NOT REALLY ...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

HM ...?
... SO WE'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT THEN?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME IF I'M FINE? OR HOW MY WORK IS?

SO? WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

AREN'T YOU CONCERNED AT ALL ABOUT ME?

SAEBA, THE REASON I'VE ASKED YOU OUT TODAY IS...
THAT'S NOT IT. I JUST...

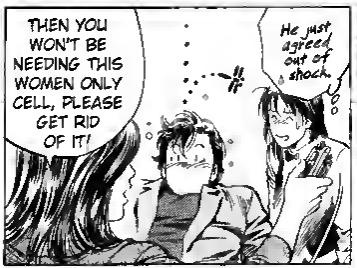
GUYS LIKE HIM THAT DON'T TRY HARD JUST WON'T CUT IT.
YEAH THAT'S RIGHT.

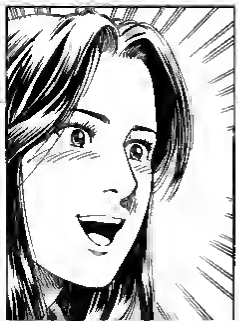
EXCUSE ME FOR A SEC... HELLO?
RRIIING
OK, TALK TO YOU LATER—
HAHA HA... YEAH I GOT IT.
YEAH... YEP... UH HUH... 'COURSE!
HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE... REALLY!
YEAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE! —. AH?
...
WELL, I... WHEN YOU WEREN'T CALLING ME, I WAS REALLY STRESSED...
STRANGE?
Sigh...
...
RECENTLY, I'VE FELT VERY STRANGE ...
SAEBA ...
SORRY, SORRY, SO YOU WERE SAYING?

YES, YES, THIS IS RYO SPEAKING!
RRRIIIIIINNG
WHOOPS, JUST A MINUTE..
ALRIGHT! THAT'S THE WAY..
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT!
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, YOU JUST GOTTA GO FOR IT!
TO IT TO IT...
THAT'S TERRIBLE... YEAH!
HM, WHAT?
LIKE I SAID, YOUR CALLS!
CALLS...? FROM WHO?
ARE YOU NOT LISTENING TO ME!?
SO... WHERE WERE WE!?
SORRY AGAIN.
beep
I WAS REALLY STRESSED! NOT GETTING ANY CALLS!

RRIIIINNG
Ah... sorry
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED MY FEELINGS ... I'M IN...
OF COURSE I HAVE... SO THEN?
AH, HEY THER—
I'M... IN LOVE WITH YOU!

YOU SAID YOU'D TRY TO WIN ME OVER, DIDN'T YOU!? WELL, YOU HAVE ME! PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!
AH...


THEN YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS WOMEN ONLY CELL, PLEASE GET RID OF IT!
He just agreed out of shock.



AHH, YEAH ...

AH~ MY 486 MOKKORI NUMBERS~
ポイッ
!!
はぁ
OK, CERTAINLY, MA'AM!
YOU SHOULDN'T RECORD OTHER GIRLS' NUMBERS EXCEPT MINE!
USE MY PRIVATE PHONE. ♡
HERE! THIS IS FOR YOU.
YOU MUST KEEP THIS WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!
I GOT TO TRY THAT!
AH... WHAT A NEAT TRICK!
So those things are real!
IT'S GREAT, RIGHT?
IT HAS GPS CAPABILITY, SO WE CAN FIND EACH OTHER EVEN IF WE'RE SEPARATED!

I'M, UHH...
OH... THAT—
EH— IT'S HALF TRUE...
A "G-GLAMOUR WRITER"...
I guess?
Ke he, he!
AH...
RIGHT, WHAT IS YOUR REAL JOB?
YOU KEEP IGNORING ME EVERY TIME I ASK YOU THAT. SINCE YOU'RE NOW MY BOYFRIEND, I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU! SO TELL ME!
YOU DON'T NEED THEM ANYMORE, I'LL HELP FIND YOU A BETTER JOB.
YEAH, THAT'S WHY THEY'RE IMPORTANT FOR ME...
SO THAT MEANS THE GIRLS IN YOUR PHONE WERE THE CONTACTS THAT YOU'VE RESEARCHED?
NO GOOD, YOU HAVE TO FIND A REAL JOB!
DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO COOK AND CLEAN? OR DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP?
AH...
ALSO, WHERE DO YOU LIVE? YOU DO LIVE SOMEWHERE PERMANENT RIGHT? AND ARE THE SURROUNDINGS THERE ALRIGHT?
Tche hee he!
HOW MUCH DO YOU EARN A YEAR? I'LL FIND A HIGHER PAYING SALARY.
UHHH...
AH...
SOMETHING TO DO WITH RESEARCH WOULD SUIT YOU RIGHT?

TOILET
CAN I ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS?
よろ
よろ
...
AH... AH I'M GOING TO THE REST-ROOM.
ABOUT THAT— HE MIGHT LOOK VERY SPONTANEOUS; WITH SO MANY FEMALE FRIENDS ...
BUT SO FAR HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE SOMEBODY SERIOUS YET.
DO YOU KNOW HIM WELL? IS HE SEEING SOMEONE NOW?
SURE, WHAT IS IT?
BUT ...
YOU'RE SO FAMOUS, WHAT DID YOU SEE IN HIM?
SOMEONE LIKE ME PERHAPS?
THAT GUY IS LIKE A KITE CUT LOOSE... SOMEBODY HAS TO PULL IT BACK DOWN.
SURE ...
WHAT DID I SEE IN HIM?
I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN HIM, I WANT TO KNOW MORE THINGS ABOUT HIM... CAN THIS BE CONSIDERED LOVE?

WHAT IS SHE THINK-ING?
THAT AH-SHAN, ADDING OIL TO THE FIRE—
...
TOILET
THEN,
I'M GOING TO CALL YOU AGAIN.
NO, YOU HAVE TO DO IT LIKE THIS.
? ...? ?
IT'LL BE OUR SECRET SIGNAL!
SINCE WE'RE STILL START-ING OUT, WE HAVEN'T EVEN KISSED YET!
THAT'S WHY WE CAN ONLY SIGNAL THIS WAY.
RIGHT! ♡
How that?
So that's her per-sonality...
YEAH... DEFINITELY ...

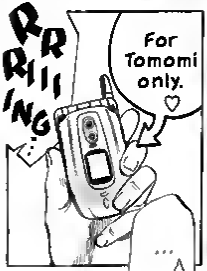
B-BUT THAT'S...
At this age even...
COME ON, DO IT~
...
GOOD-NIGHT ...
RYO! ♡
THEN GOOD-NIGHT! ♡
BEING HIS DAUGHTER, SHOULD I GIVE THEM A PUSH...? BUT...
WITH SOMEBODY LIKE HER KEEPING HIM COMPANY, WOULD PAPA BE MORE RESTRAINED?
BECAUSE RYO-PAPA DOESN'T HAVE A PERMANENT GIRLFRIEND, HE HAS NOTHING TO DO...
HA... HAHA HA...
What am I doing...
That pose doesn't look right.
Somehow...

Chapter 160 Mystery of the Man Who is Loved

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE, I'M YOUR HOST, ASAKURA TOMOMI!

GOOD AFTERNOON ~~~!

TCH... WHATEVER ...!


RRIIING
For Tomomi only.
...

RRIIING

...
HEY, RYO, AREN'T YOU GOING TO RESPOND TO HER SIGNAL?
Heh heh!
SHE'S SO~~~ HOT!
AND EVERY SHOW SHE'S ON, SHE'S ALWAYS SECRETLY GREETING MR. SAEBA~~!

HEY, DID YOU WATCH THE SHOW? DID YOU MAKE THE SIGN?
HA... HAHA HA...
AREN'T YOU DOING A SHOW RIGHT NOW?
AH, THAT'S A RECORDING! BUT ANYWAY ...
THERE'S A WONDFRFUL SURPRISE WAITING FOR YDU LATFR! LOOK FORWARD TO IT!♡
AH...?
T U
... WONDER WHAT IT IS...
GOING TO THE RESTROOM
HEY, RYO...
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE! ♡
HEH ...
SFX: BATAN
KE HEH!

AH— HAHA HA!
HAHAH HAHA...
CATSEYE
KLANG!
OH ...
WELCO...
THE— THE NEWS ANCHOR ASAKURA?
It's really her!
OH, IT'S YOU! SO YOU WORK HERE IN THE MORNING?
UHH.. SURE ...
WHERE'S RYO...?

AH CHOO!
HE JUST WENT TO THE REST-ROOM...
...
THIS IS A CAFE RIGHT? HE'S ALWAYS AROUND HERE, I THOUGHT THIS MUST BE HIS HOME...
Wow- It's Asakura the news anchor!
OH... FALCON ...
YOU KNOW ...
IT'S SHAME-FUL FOR A SWEEPER TO HAVE GPS TRACKING OF ONE'S WHERE-ABOUTS!
HMPH!
HE REALLY HAS A QUICK MIND REGARDING THOSE THINGS...
... GEEZ ...
THEN... WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SHE DECIDES TO CALL?
?
IT AUTO-MATICALLY TRANSFERS CALLS TO HIS PHONE.
EVERY TIME MR. SAEBA GOES OUT, HE LEAVES THE GPS PHONE WITH ME!

ASA-KURA...
WHERE'S THIS BOYFRIEND OF YOURS THAT YOU WANTED ME TO MEET?
SO?
ビル
AW!
COME ON!
I'M A BUSY MAN— HOW ABOUT WE GET SOME DRINKS, JUST THE TWO OF US, AND FORGET ABOUT HIM?
HE'LL BE HERE SHORTLY
EXCUSE ME, BUT WHO MIGHT THIS PERSON BE?
HE'S A COMMENTATOR ON MY SHOW, MR. BANDOU SANEMICHI.
HE'S JAPAN'S MOST EXPERT CRITIC ON WORLD MILITARY AFFAIRS. HE'S ALSO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR THE JOURNAL WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTRY.
IN THE PAST, HE WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO COVERED WARS AROUND THE WORLD. HE'S FAMOUS FOR PARTAKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN WARS.
Ah, Asakura, you're so insensitive...

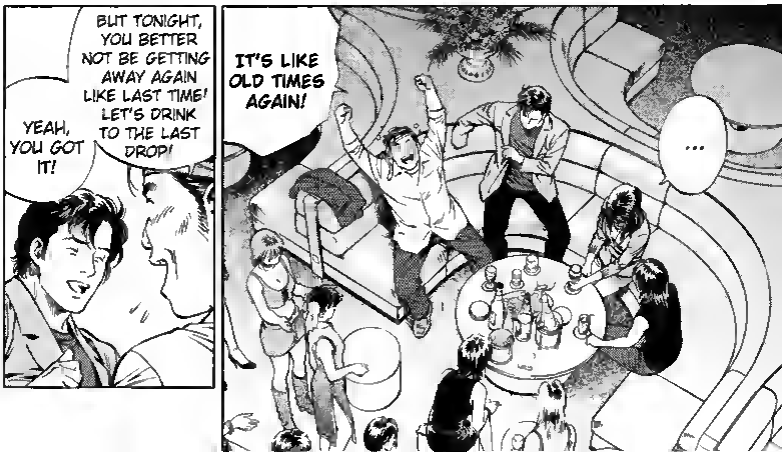
"GET A JOB," HUH...
Ha ha... Ha!
I BROUGHT HIM HERE, THINKING I'D HELP RYO GET A JOB.
RYO!
HUH?
...
MR. BANDOU, HERE HE IS...
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HIRING THAT MAN!
DON'T ASK! COME, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR JOB INTERVIEW!
T-TOMO! HOW COME YOU'RE HERE...
INTERVIEW ——?
A SHAMELESS GLAMOUR WRITER AT AGE FORTY? YOU SURE PICKED UP A WORTHLESS MAN!
YOU ...?
...

I WON'T HIRE A MAN LIKE THAT! THE REASON I CAME HERE TODAY WAS TO OPEN YOUR EYES, ASAKURA...
BAN?
...?
RYO ...
RYO!?
IT REALLY IS YOU, BAN!
TO THINK I'D MEET YOU HERE! I'VE HEARD MANY THINGS ABOUT YOU... HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN?
PROBABLY MORE THAN TEN YEARS NOW... I SEE THAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING WELL!
...

AH... THEN... BAN...
LET'S GO——!
OKAY! LET'S GO GET SOME DRINKS!
Some other time...
Can I ask that perso... lady to read me a book?
SOMEONE THAT WELL KNOWN IN THE NEWS WORLD...?
WHAT... THEY BOTH KNEW EACH OTHER...?
あはは
YEAH! YEAH!
キャハハ!
KYA! KYA!
COUNTRY CLUB OASIS
...!
AH— HAHA HA...
FULL

WAH HAHA HA...
IN-CRED-IBLE!
KYAH HAHA HA...

HOW GRATIFYING!
...
She's already drunk so much


BUT TONIGHT, YOU BETTER NOT BE GETTING AWAY AGAIN LIKE LAST TIME! LET'S DRINK TO THE LAST DROP!
YEAH, YOU GOT IT!
IT'S LIKE OLD TIMES AGAIN!
...

HA...
...
AFTER ALL, HE IS KNOWN AS THE MOKKORI WOLF OF THE BATTLEFIELD! HAHAHA...
EVERY TIME WE WENT OUT FOR DRINKS, HE'D GET AWAY FIRST WITH A WOMAN IN HAND!
HOW ABOUT A DRINK? ASAKURA!
AH... HAHAHA HAH!
HOW DO YOU AND RYO KNOW EACH OTHER, MR. BANDOU!?
WILL YOU PLEASE JUST TELL ME!
I'M JUST PUTTING THAT TO HEART.
WHEN IT'S TIME TO GET ROWDY, GET ROWDY! WHEN IT'S TIME TO DRINK, DRINK!
Gulog Gulog
Didn't even know!
Q-QUITE FEROCIOUS... WHEN YOU DRINK... ASAKURA.

WE'RE COMRADES IN ARMS, YOU COULD SAY...
HOW MANY COUNTLESS TIMES HAS HE SAVED ME...
NO, HE WAS A SAVIOR!
BOTH OF US GOING THROUGH THE SAME THINGS ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
I WOULD WANT TO GO WITH RYO AGAIN ...
...
IF I EVER WERE TO GO TO THE FRONTLINE AGAIN.....
IF IT WASN'T FOR RYO... I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM TODAY...
There you go exag-gerating again

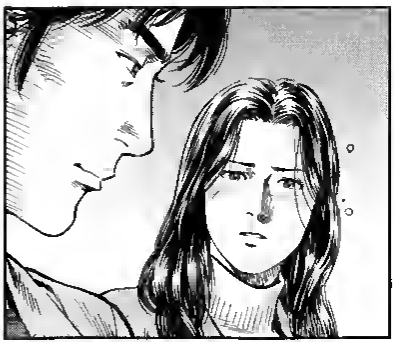
MALE HOST... PRESIDENT ...
SAVIOR ...
COMRADE IN ARMS ...
I REALLY DON'T UNDER-STAND IT!
ASA-KURA?
BATTLEFIELD! PRESIDENT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING COM-PANY! MR. BANDOU! THE HOST CLUB! SOO GIRLS... THERE'S NO CONNECTION AMONG THESE PEOPLE THAT YOU KNOW!
H-HEY! I THINK YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU... BUT THE MORE I KNOW, THE MORE I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOU!
WELL, I...
WHO... ARE YOU?

ドゥ
ドゥ
ドゥ

パン
ドドドド
ドドドド
ドドドド

?...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
KYAA! THE GLASS BROKE !?
ASAKURA... YOU REALLY HAVE EYES FOR PICKIN' THEM...
IT NEVER GETS BORING BEING WITH YOU!
...
HAHAHAHA! AS USUAL, THERE'S NOTHING BUT DANGER SURROUNDING YOU, RYO!
BUT... IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT RYO...
YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO BECOME LIKE THAT WINE GLASS.
... DON'T ...
UNDER-STAND...

SO NOW'S MY TIME TO DISAPPEAR, HUH? YOU TAKE CARE OF HER...
AW COME ON...
H-HEY?
OH MAN. SHE'S REACHED HER LIMIT I GUESS.
COM-PLETELY ...
HA... HAHA. THIS SUPERVISOR OF YOURS IS REALLY SCARY, HUH!
Would you believe if I said she's my daughter?
So who is this girl?
I WILL TAKE CARE OF MISS ASAKURA! THE TWO OF YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM!
AGHHH ...
DON'T UNDER-STAND...



Chapter 161 Love Awareness

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suu~

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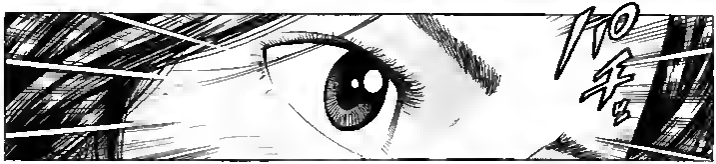
suu..

西澤病院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...

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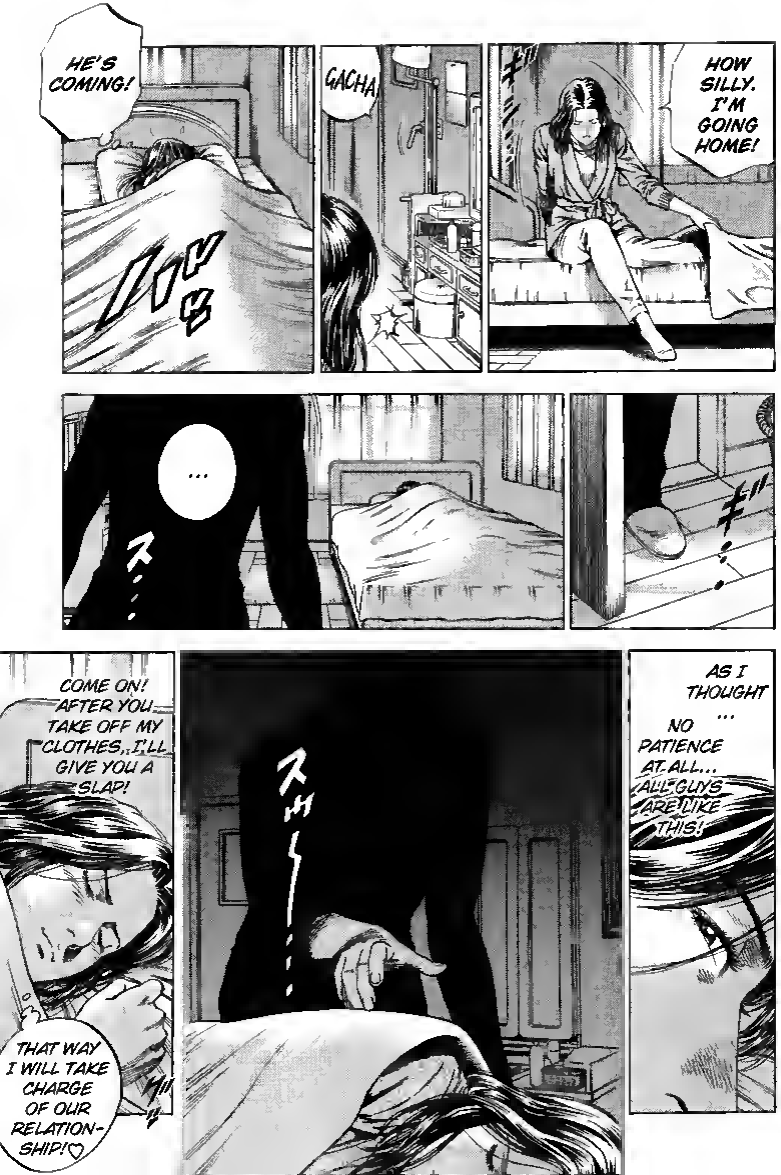
キョロ

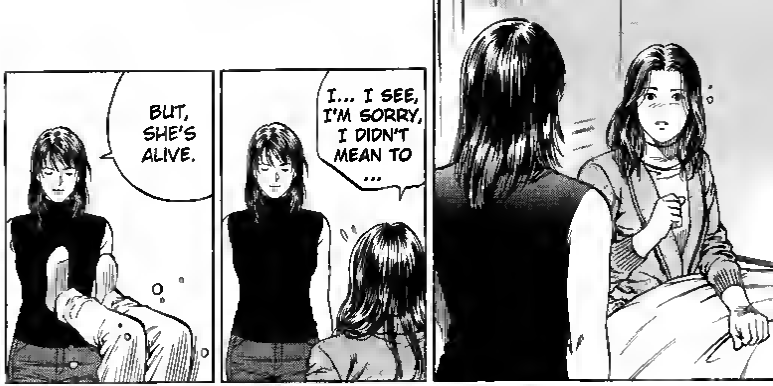
COULD IT BE... RYO DOESN'T PLAN TO DO ANYTHING TO ME?
I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR AN HOUR!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
ガバッ
...
WELL THEN, I'LL LEAVE BAN TO YOU, AH-SHAN.
DON'T YOU GO AND DO ANYTHING TO MS. ASAKURA.
TO THE NEXT BAR～
フラ
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU HAVE TO TELL ME... DON'T YOU TRUST ME?
IT'S BECAUSE I TRUST YOU THAT I KEEP TELLING YOU. GOT IT!?
ひぇ～

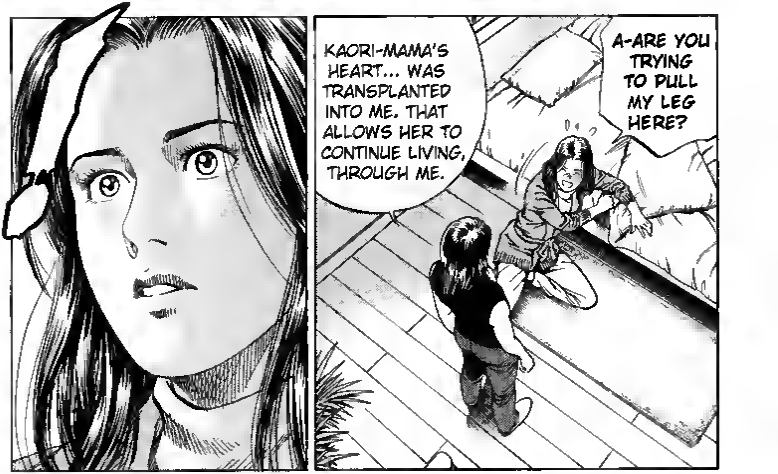
THE MORE I KNOW... THE MORE ENIGMATIC HE SEEMS.
REALLY ...
YEAH, YEAH. I'LL HELP GET YOU A CAB, SO JUST GO HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP.
HAHAHA, COME— LET'S CONTINUE ...
THEN YOU WOULD JUST BE THAT SORT OF A GUY AFTER ALL.
IF YOU REALLY DID SOMETHING FUNNY TO ME...
HOW WILL HE TREAT AN UNCONSCIOUS, DRUNKEN GIRL...
FEELS LIKE I'M LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS...
AT LEAST, I'LL BE ABLE TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF A MAN YOU ARE.
...
NOTHING'S HAPPENING. MY PRIDE AS A WOMAN HAS BEEN...
Already been waiting here for an hour.

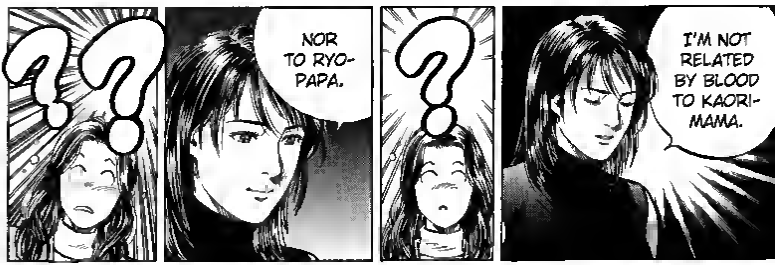

HE'S COMING!
ハッ
GACHA
HOW SILLY. I'M GOING HOME!
…
ス…
キ!!
COME ON! AFTER YOU TAKE OFF MY CLOTHES,, I'LL GIVE YOU A SLAP!
THAT WAY I WILL TAKE CHARGE OF OUR RELATION-SHIP!♡
スゥ…
AS I THOUGHT … NO PATIENCE AT ALL… ALL GUYS ARE LIKE THIS!

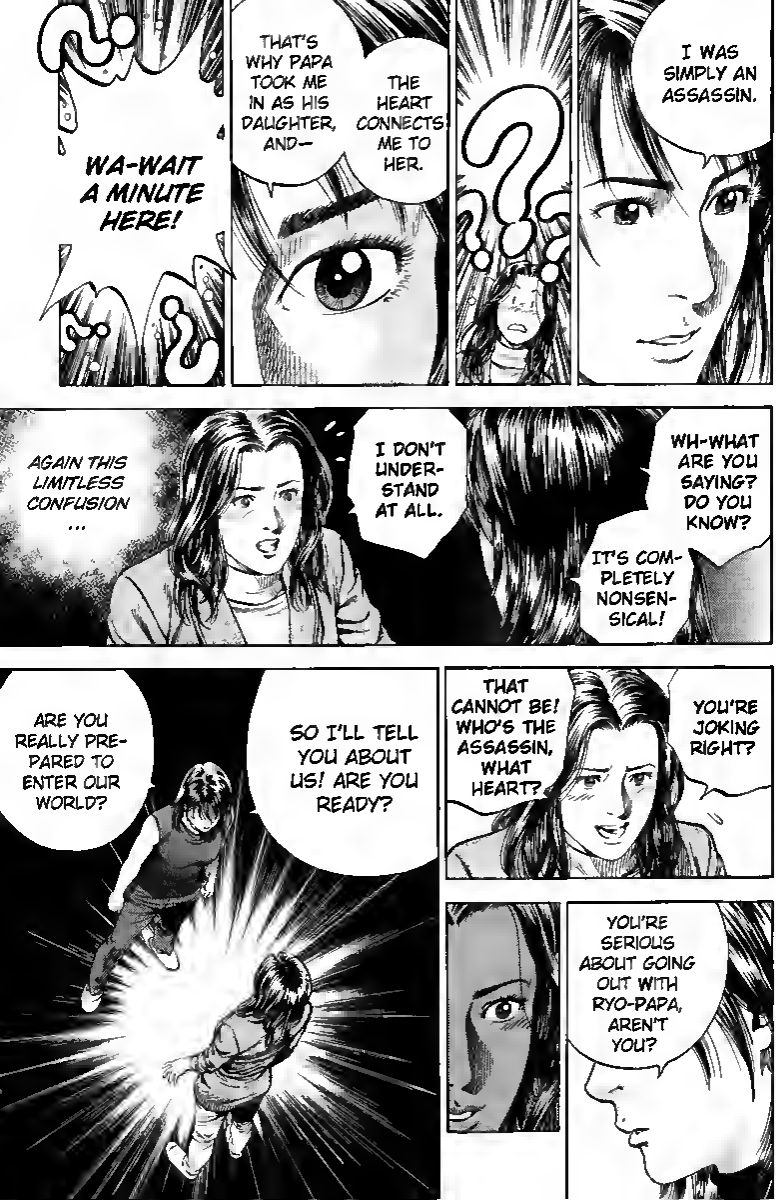
YOU'RE AWAKE RIGHT? I KNOW YOU'RE PRETENDING...
A WOMAN?
...
AH!
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT; THIS IS HIS HOUSE.
WELL... THIS IS MY ROOM, AFTER ALL.
YOU... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DAUGHTER!
DON'T TELL ME, YOU'RE RYO'S...
WHAT? YOU MEAN THIS ISN'T RYO'S HOUSE? HOW COULD HE HAVE LEFT ME AT YOUR HOUSE...

I'M RYO-PAPA'S DAUGHTER, SHANIN, 18 YEARS OLD!
HE DID TELL ME...
SO HE WASN'T JOKING
ENOUGH OF YOUR SILLINESS! AS IF YOU'D HAVE A DAUGHTER ...
SORRY! RYO'S GOT A DAUGHTER, SOOO. .
YOU'RE KIDDING. HE DIDN'T TELL ME ABOU...
HA... HAHAHA... THEN THAT MEANS YOUR FATHER...
THEN,
HE HAS A WIFE? I'M JUST AN OUTSIDE AFFAIR...
... IS ALREADY FAST ASLEEP.
Snore
I give up...
KAORI-MAMA PASSED AWAY FOUR YEARS AGO...


BUT, SHE'S ALIVE.
I... I SEE, I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO ...


KAORI-MAMA'S HEART... WAS TRANSPLANTED INTO ME. THAT ALLOWS HER TO CONTINUE LIVING, THROUGH ME.
A-ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL MY LEG HERE?


NOR TO RYO-PAPA.
I'M NOT RELATED BY BLOOD TO KAORI-MAMA.


I WAS SIMPLY AN ASSASSIN.
THE HEART CONNECTS ME TO HER.
THAT'S WHY PAPA TOOK ME IN AS HIS DAUGHTER, AND—
WA-WAIT A MINUTE HERE!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? DO YOU KNOW?
IT'S COMPLETELY NONSENSICAL!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.
AGAIN THIS LIMITLESS CONFUSION ...
YOU'RE JOKING RIGHT?
THAT CANNOT BE! WHO'S THE ASSASSIN, WHAT HEART?
SO I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT US! ARE YOU READY?
ARE YOU REALLY PREPARED TO ENTER OUR WORLD?
YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT GOING OUT WITH RYO-PAPA, AREN'T YOU?

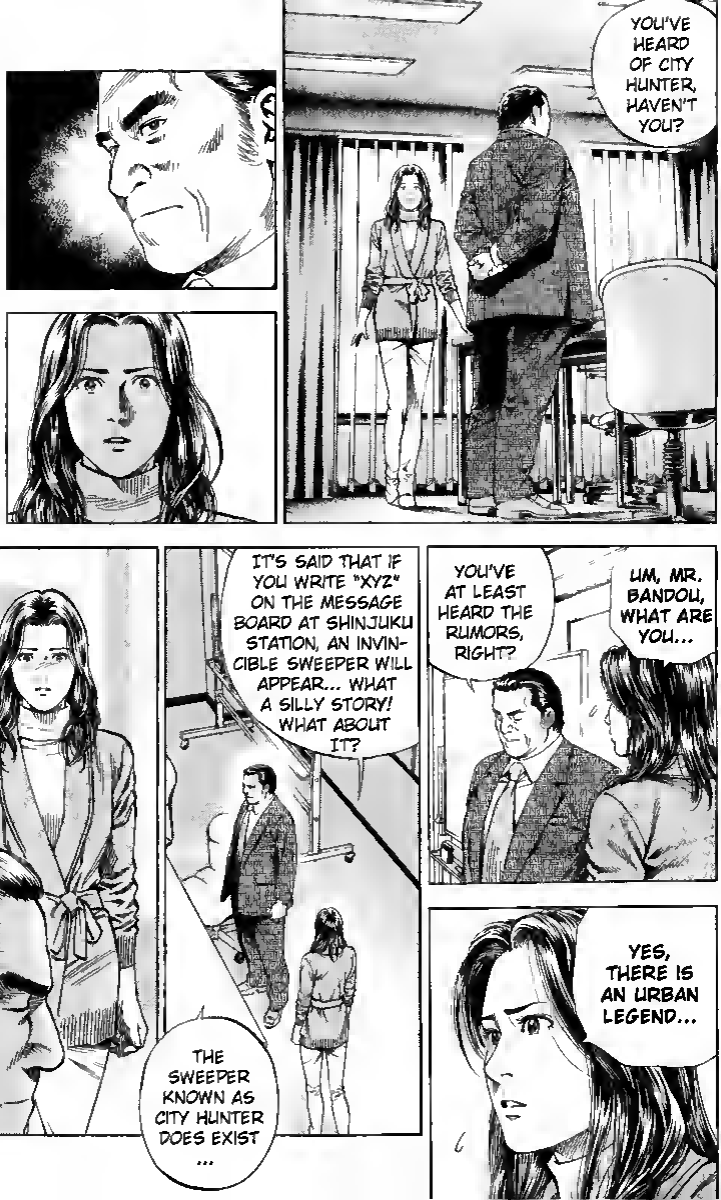
ARE YOU PREPARED TO BECOME LIKE THAT BROKEN WINE GLASS?
IT'S JUST LIKE MR BANDOU SAID...
...
IT WAS SHOT BY THIS.
WHY DID THAT GLASS BREAK?
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S REAL...?
WHAT'S THIS...?
A TOY ...?

SHALL I... CONTINUE MY STORY?
...
ウィーン
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK IF YOU DO!
ARE YOU PREPARED TO HEAR THE TRUTH?

I UNDER-STAND... YOU'RE AFRAID THAT I'LL STEAL YOUR DAD, THAT'S WHY... THAT GUN IS A FAKE RIGHT?
STOP MESSING AROUND ALREADY!
STO-
カチャ
パン
ENOUGH ALREADY... Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR!

FATHER AND DAUGHTER UNRELATED BY BLOOD...
AN ASSASSIN...
LIMITLESS CONFUSION...
AND WHAT ISN'T...?
HOW DO I KNOW WHAT'S REAL
A BROKEN GLASS...
A GUN...
...
...

PLEASE TELL ME WHO HE REALLY IS! YOU SHOULD KNOW RIGHT?
東出版
ALL RIGHT ...
PLEASE DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT, MR. BANDOU!
NOT SO LOUD— TOMOMI... I'M A LITTLE HUNGOVER, SO...
I'VE ALREADY HEARD ALL THAT!
Alright, alright already.
SO YOU'RE DETER-MINED TO KNOW...
UNDER-GROUND SWEEP-ER.
GO ON!
MAD


YOU'VE HEARD OF CITY HUNTER, HAVEN'T YOU?
UM, MR. BANDOU, WHAT ARE YOU...
YOU'VE AT LEAST HEARD THE RUMORS, RIGHT?
IT'S SAID THAT IF YOU WRITE "XYZ" ON THE MESSAGE BOARD AT SHINJUKU STATION, AN INVINCIBLE SWEEPER WILL APPEAR... WHAT A SILLY STORY! WHAT ABOUT IT?
YES, THERE IS AN URBAN LEGEND...
THE SWEEPER KNOWN AS CITY HUNTER DOES EXIST ...

CITY HUNTER IS RYO SAEBA... THAT'S THE TRUE IDENTITY OF YOUR BOYFRIEND!
... MR. BANDOU ...?

THAT OLD FART, GIVING ME THAT "CITY HUNTER" CRAP!
QUIT SCREWING AROUND WITH ME!
...
TARGET CONFIRMED ...
COMMENCING OPERATION...
NOT EVEN LITTLE KIDS BELIEVE IN THAT NONSENSE!
TOMOMI
To think that I was able to dine with the American president...

Chapter 162 Ryo's Big Mistake

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ミャーミャー

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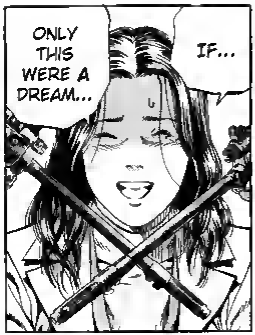
!!
...?
ハドハド

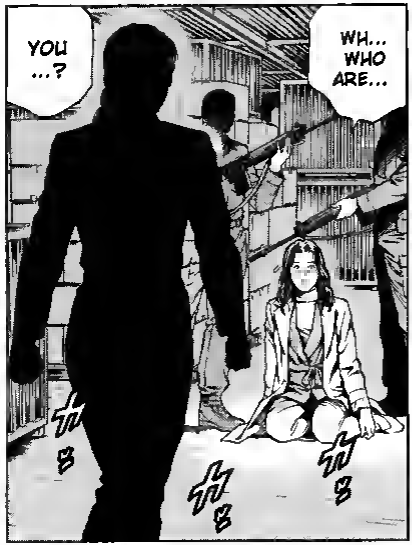
SCREECH
RYO-PAPA, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?
BUT HIS CLIENT ALSO INSTRUCTED HIM TO LEAVE THIS AT THE SCENE.
THE MAN WHO WAS AFTER YOU WAS JUST A HIRED HAND...
scratch scratch
YEAH ...
HMM ...
scratch

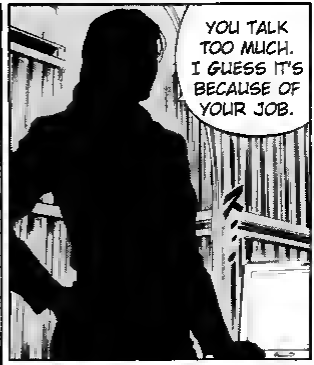
THE BLACK PANTH-ERS!?
TH-THIS IS...
EH...
ス...
OH SHIT!
...AH—
SH—...
RYO-PAPA?
...

...
WHO--
WHO ARE YOU GUYS!?
THIS WHOLE TIME
HE'S HAD HIS EYES ON ME
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS!? THIS IS KIDNAPPING!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME? WHAT DO YOU WANT? ARE YOU A STALKER!? YES, YOU MUST BE A STALKER!
...


ONLY THIS WERE A DREAM...
IF...

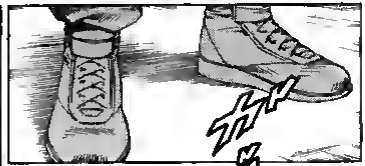
THIS IS A DREAM...! THIS HAS GOT TO BE A BAD DREAM—!
WH-WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? IS THIS REALLY HAPPEN-ING?


YOU ...?
WH... WHO ARE...


YOU TALK TOO MUCH. I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR JOB.

... A WOMAN?

FANG-YU YANG.
I AM ...



PEOPLE CALL ME THE PANTHERESS GENERAL.
LEADER OF THE MERCENARY UNIT, THE BLACK PANTHERS.
ENEMY!
CITY... HUNTER ...?
MERCENARY ...? PANTHERESS ...?
I JUST HAD TO SEE THE WOMAN THAT CITY HUNTER FELL IN LOVE WITH!
CITY HUNTER, RYO SAEBA, MY ETERNAL ..

I REALLY MESSED UP! HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN! THAT HITMAN EVEN GAVE A WARNING!
Load already you piece of crap!
WHAT IS IT? RYO-PAPA...
ac OS 9
Loading...
New Mail
CLICK
New Mail
BEEP
Tomomi Asakura is in my hands!
The Pantheress
AHA AHA HA~~ HAHAHA HA...
AH HA...
...
P-PAPA WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ...!?

IT'S BEEN OVER TWENTY YEARS NOW...
キュル
キュル
ドドド

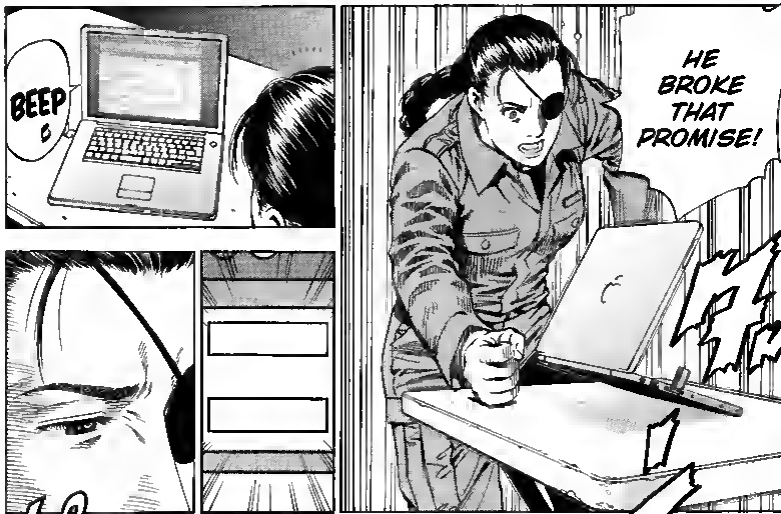
LET'S GO, YANG!
YOU DON'T...
HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME ANYMORE ...
YANG ...
SAEBA... YOU CAN MAKE IT OUT HERE IF YOU GO BY YOURSELF ...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE LIGHTER THAN THE AIR ON MY SHOULDERS.
EVEN IF I LIVE, ALL THAT REMAINS IS HARDSHIP. MY FIANCEE BACK HOME WILL RUN AWAY FROM ME!
...
SO PLEASE... LET ME DIE... SAEBA...
MY...
... MY FACE HAS BECOME... SO UGLY ...

YOU SHOULD JUST DUMP THAT GUY IF HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE NOW!
I'LL JUST PICK UP HIS LOSSES!
ENOUGH... LET... ME... END THIS...
I... I'M TIRED...
EVEN IF... WE MANAGED TO SURVIVE THIS SOONER OR LATER ... WE'D STILL DIE TOGETHER... IN ANOTHER PLACE...
BUT... THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT THE TWO OF US WILL MAKE IT OUT HERE ALIVE...

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL SHOW YOU I CAN MAKE IT!
FOR YOUR SAKE!
DOS DOS
SO, FANG-YU, YOU PROMISE TOO! PROMISE ME!
THAT YOU'LL, LIVE THROUGH THIS FOR MY SAKE! GOT IT!

RYO...
I... PROMISE YOU...!
I...
KEPT THE PROMISE I MADE WITH RYO AND SURVIVED THAT LONG WAR.
BUT THE UNITS WE WERE AFFILIATED WITH WERE DIFFERENT.
SO WE NEVER MET AGAIN ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
...
MANY YEARS PASSED AFTER THE WAR... I LEARNED THAT RYO WAS WORK-ING IN JAPAN AS THE SWEEPER "CH"...
BUT BY THEN, HE ALREADY HAD A WOMAN NAMED KAORI AT HIS SIDE...

AFTER THAT... AFTER I MADE HIM PROMISE ME ONE LAST THING, RYO AND I WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS...
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE UP ON HIM...
BUT...
KAORI...
KAORI-MAMA!?
RYO'S DEAD WIFE!?



Fang-Yu, I'm sorry! (^^i)
I wes sick in bed from catching the influenze pendemic on Christmas dey (*_*i)
I had high fever over 40 degrees, also suffered from diarrhea Σ(ˉoˉ|||)
And that's why! I really didn't forget! o(> <i)(i> <)o

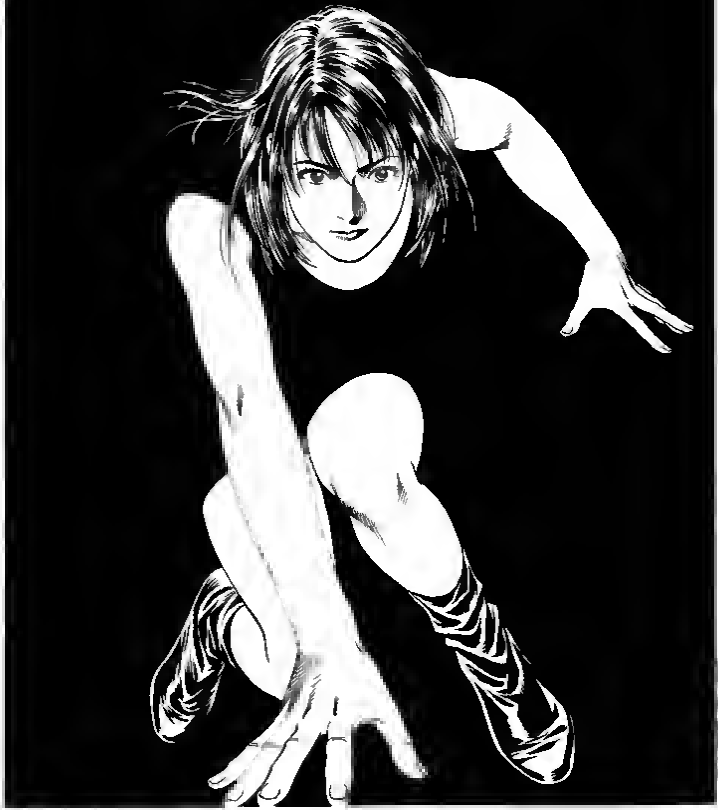
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT HE FORGOT ABOUT HIS PROMISE TO ME...
HMPH! NOW YOU'RE LOOKING FOR EXCUSES!
Using heaps of smileys!
I HAD ONE OF MY MEN INVESTIGATE RYO.
...?
AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW? HE HAS A NEW GIRLFRIEND... YOU!
WHAT PROM-ISE?
U-UM ...
HE BECAME INFATUATED WITH YOU... AND FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIS PROMISE TO ME!
It's fine if you don't tell me ...

ON THE 25TH OF DECEMBER ...
MY... BIRTHDAY IS ON CHRISTMAS ...
EVERY YEAR ON CHRISTMAS, HE IS TO SEND ME AN E-MAIL...
YOU FORGOT TO SEND A BIRTHDAY CARD?
とぼとぼ...

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY ANGRY TO MAKE A MOVE ON TOMO...
IF I HAD ONLY NOTICED THIS EARLIER...
SHE SENDS AN ASSASSIN AFTER YOU BECAUSE OF THAT...
THIS WARNING IS JUST LIKE HER... SHE WON'T KILL ME JUST FOR THIS THOUGH.
THAT'S RIGHT! SO WE HAVE TO STOP MESSING AROUND AND GO SAVE HER!
NO, IF WE MISHANDLE THINGS HERE, I FEAR ALL OF SHINJUKU WILL BECOME A SEA OF FLAME... THAT'S THE SORT OF PERSON WE'RE DEALING WITH.
IF I GO THERE NOW, THINGS WILL JUST GET WORSE...
YOU SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW HER.
WAIT! SHANIN ...
WE'LL USE TOMOMI'S GPS PHONE TO LOCATE HER. SO LET'S GET ...
...?

ミノロ…

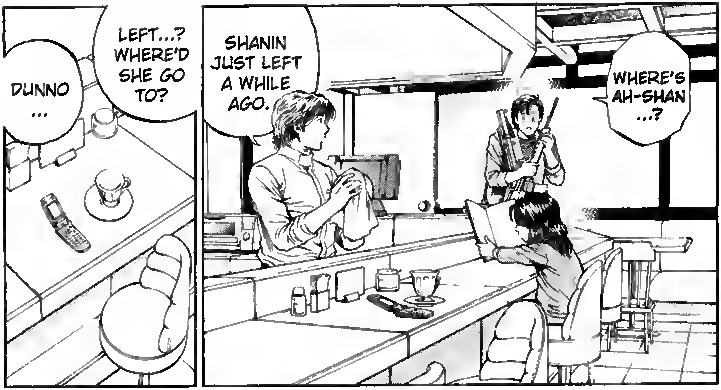
Chapter 163 Drinks Between Women

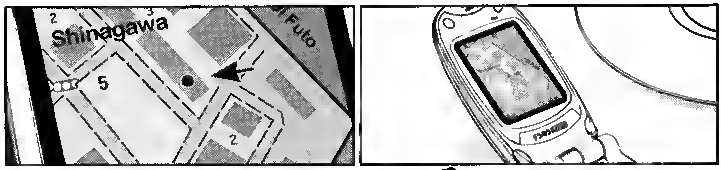


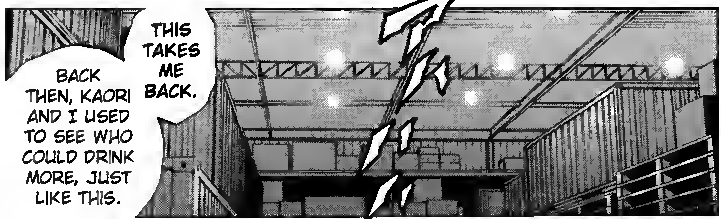
WHAT... ARE YOU GOING TO DO... WITH ME...?
WHA ...
...
YOU GET IT NOW? IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO SEE YOU!
FU!!

DRINK UP!
...?
...
BUT IF YOU CAN'T ...
IF YOU CAN OUTDRINK ME, I'LL LET YOU GO!
ALCOHOL ...?
SMIRNOFF
VODKA

...
TAKE THEM! I CAN ONLY HELP YOU WITH THESE.
ガシャン
YOU CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MIS-TAKES!
EVEN IF SHINJUKU GETS BLOWN TO KINGDOM COME?
WHY? YOU'RE SO COLD... UMI...
I'M NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR AFFAIRS WITH WOMEN.
HEY, AH-SHAN HELP ME LOAD THESE INTO THE CAR!
GOT IT ALREADY, YOU MEANIE!


WHERE'S AH-SHAN ...?
SHANIN JUST LEFT A WHILE AGO.
LEFT...? WHERE'D SHE GO TO?
DUNNO ...


Shinagawa
Futo
2
3
5
2

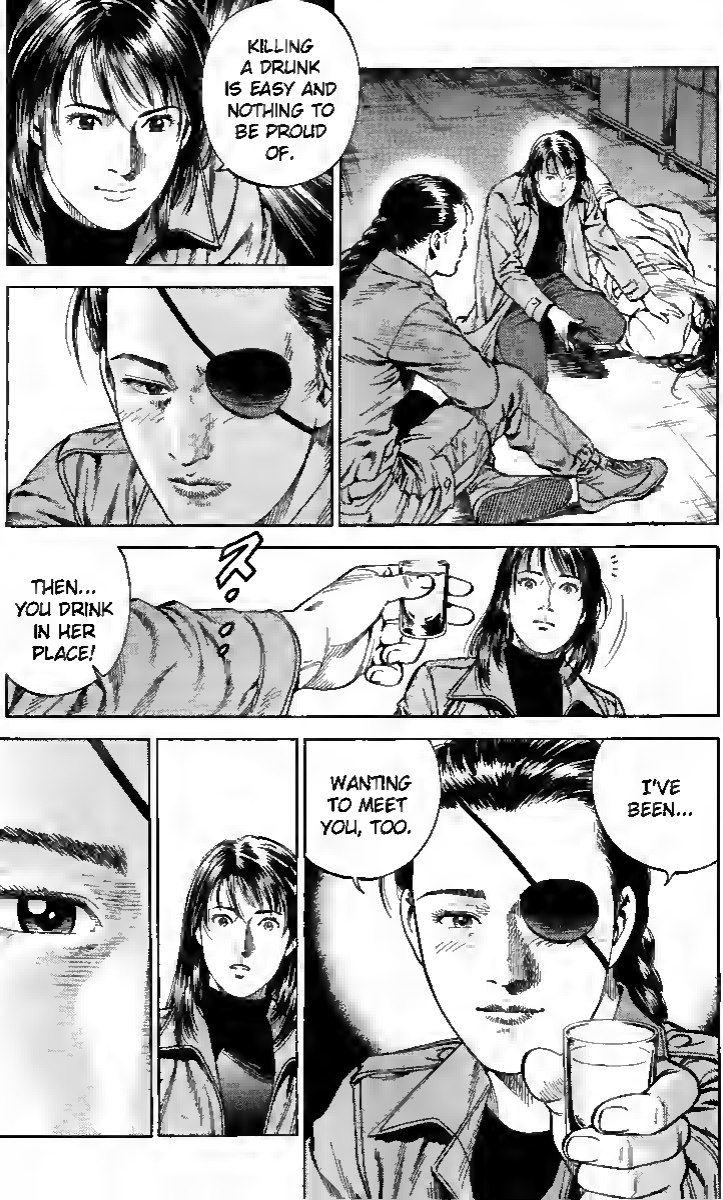

THIS TAKES ME BACK.
BACK THEN, KAORI AND I USED TO SEE WHO COULD DRINK MORE, JUST LIKE THIS.

... KAORI ...?
THAT'S RIGHT... RYO'S DEAD PARTNER.

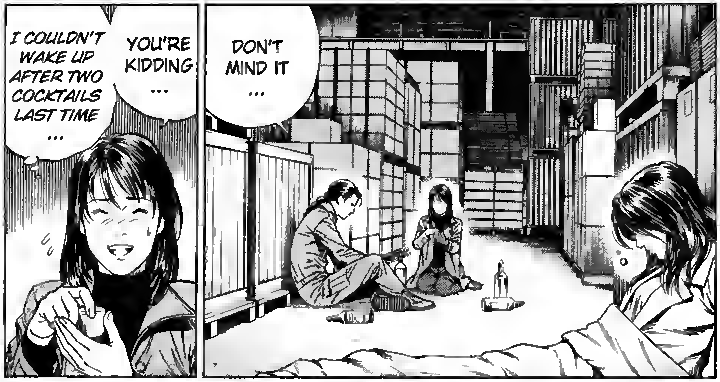
IT'S THE PERFECT TOOL FOR SEEING PEOPLE AS THEY REALLY ARE.
I WANTED TO SEE... THE EXTENT OF HER CAPABILITY— THAT WOMAN WHO TOOK RYO FROM ME...
...
JUST LIKE US DRINKING HERE TODAY...
Hic
ALCOHOL MAKES PEOPLE SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS.
Hic
SHE WAS A VERY DETERMINED WOMAN...
THAT KAORI,
COMPARED TO HER, YOU'RE JUST...
...
スヤ～ッ

!?
I KNOW THINGS WERE JUST GETTING INTO FULL SWING, BUT THE PARTY'S OVER!
AND YOU ARE...?
SHANIN... JUST AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HERS.

HOW DID YOU GET IN...? I HAD GUARDS POSTED...
IT SEEMS THEY COULDN'T RESIST THE URGE TO SLEEP
RYO'S DAUGHTER, THE ONE WHO POSSESSES KAORI'S HEART.
RIGHT... YOU'RE RYO'S...
...SHANIN...
WAIT...
...
IF YOU KNOW WHO I AM, THEN YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE...
THAT WOMAN COULDN'T OUTDRINK ME. I CAN'T JUST RETURN HER TO YOU.


KILLING A DRUNK IS EASY AND NOTHING TO BE PROUD OF.
THEN... YOU DRINK IN HER PLACE!
I'VE BEEN...
WANTING TO MEET YOU, TOO.

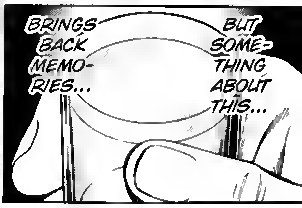
BUT... I'M STILL A MINOR—


I COULDN'T WAKE UP AFTER TWO COCKTAILS LAST TIME ...
YOU'RE KIDDING ...
DON'T MIND IT ...

... THIS TASTE...
Sip

...

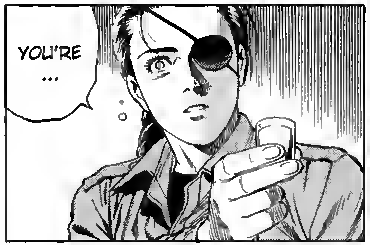
IT SEEMS LIKE PRETTY STRONG ALCOHOL!
Sniff


BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...

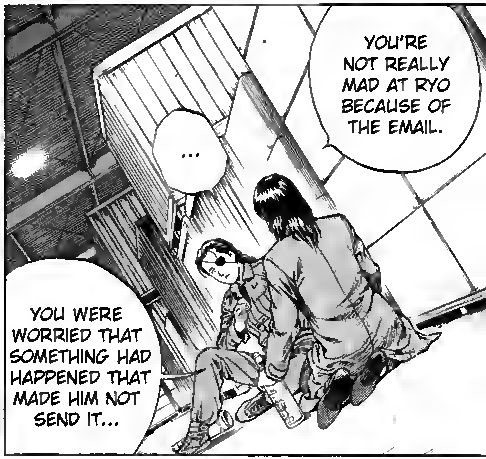
YOU HAVE GOOD TECHNIQUE ...
WAH AH—
Tastes so good!♡
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT YOU... REALLY REMINDS ME OF KAORI.
THERE'S NO BLOOD CONNECTION.
STRANGE ...
THE ONLY ONE TO EVER OUTDRINK ME WAS HER...
I LOST TO THAT WOMAN!
YEAH ...
YOU KNEW KAORI-MAMA ...?

WITH KAORI ...
I WANTED TO DRINK... ONE MORE TIME.
Gulp Gulp
ME... TOO...
I WANTED TO DRINK... ONE MORE TIME WITH YOU TOO.

KA... KAORI ...?
YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT RYO, WEREN'T YOU, FANG-YU?
roll roll


YOU'RE ...

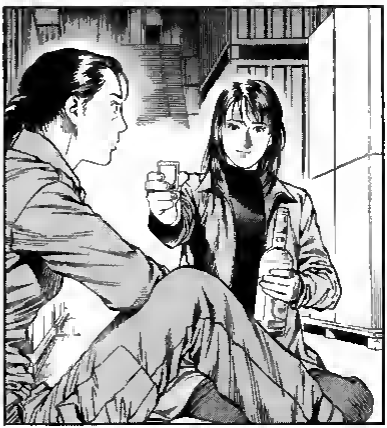
RIGHT ...?


YOU'RE NOT REALLY MAD AT RYO BECAUSE OF THE EMAIL.
...
YOU WERE WORRIED THAT SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED THAT MADE HIM NOT SEND IT...

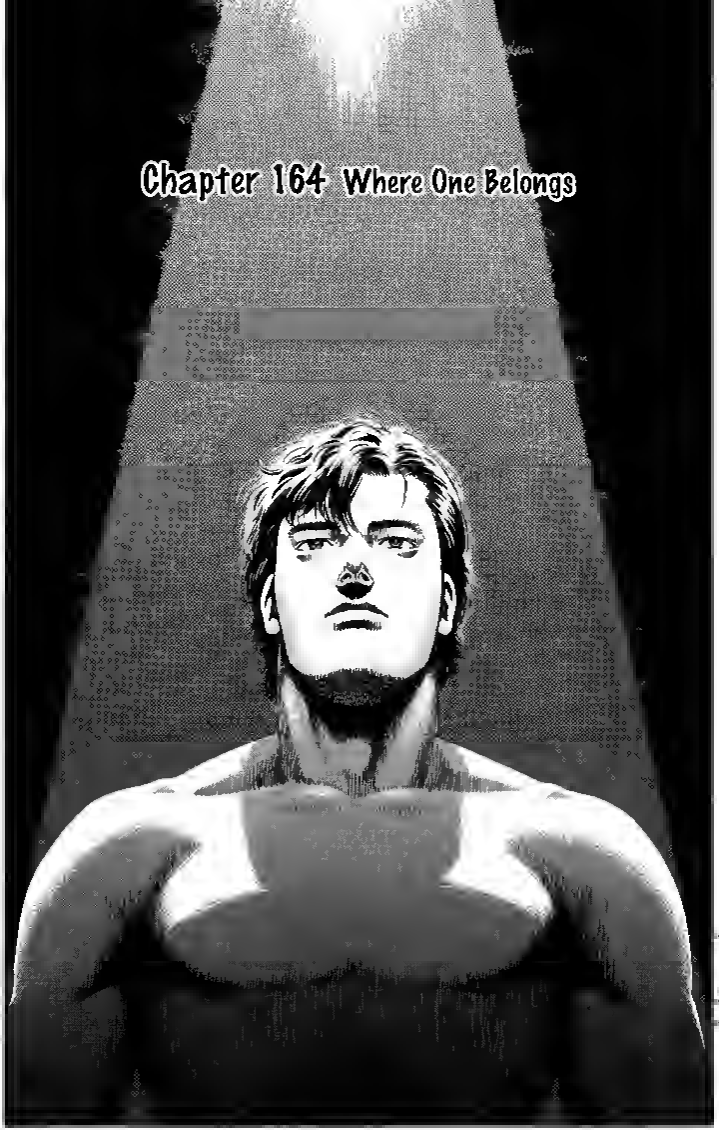
WHEN YOU DIED...
I WAS AFRAID RYO WOULD FOLLOW AFTER YOU...
I WAS... WORRIED TO DEATH!
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO! IT WAS REALLY TOUGH...
...

IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU, WITH KAORI INSIDE YOU, THAT RYO...
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU, SHANIN!
I SEE ...!
THAT I COULD DRINK... WITH YOU AGAIN...
I'M GLAD... KAORI ...
...
... ME, TOO...

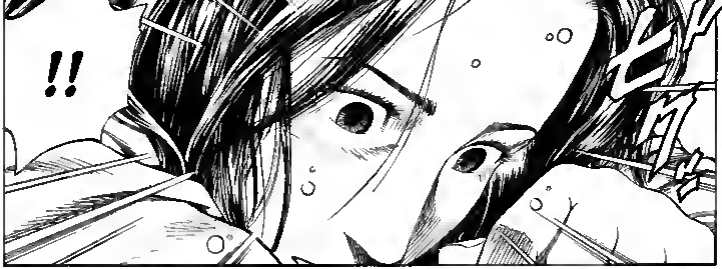
FOR CONTINUING TO LOVE RYO ALL THIS TIME...
THANK YOU...
THAT'S WHY...
THIS IS WHY I'LL NEVER BE A MATCH FOR YOU...
KAORI ...
YOU IDIOT...



Chapter 164 Where One Belongs



ARE YOU PREPARED TO HEAR THE TRUTH?
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK IF YOU DO!
HM...
CITY HUNTER IS RYO SAEBA!
I JUST HAD TO SEE THE WOMAN THAT CITY HUNTER FELL IN LOVE WITH!
THAT'S THE TRUE IDENTITY OF YOUR BOY-FRIEND!
ZUU
SHAK
PAKI


!!

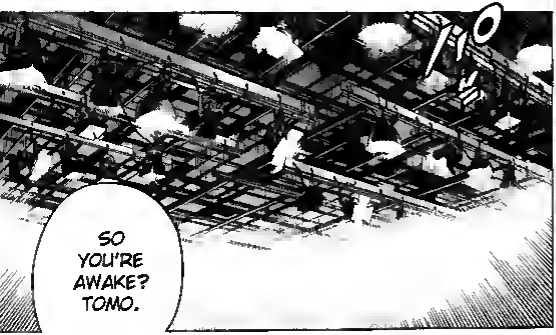
...
THIS
IS?

A DREAM
Ha...

THIS...
IS REAL
...
NO...
WRONG!

Haa
...

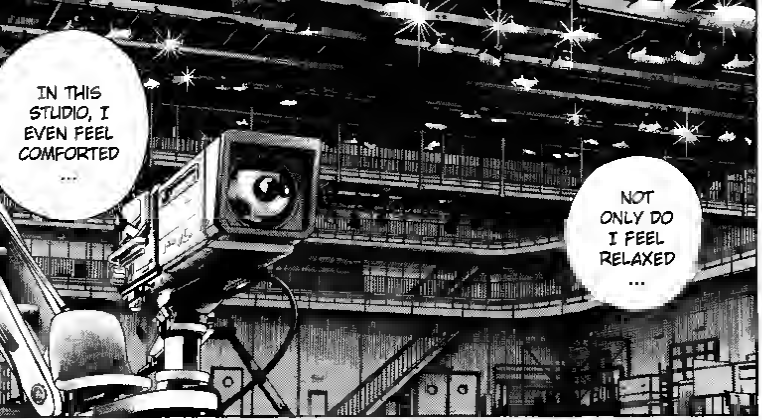
Ha...
Haa...
Ha...
Haa...


SO
YOU'RE
AWAKE?
TOMO.

...
浅倉
よう…
ス
ス…
浅倉朋
OHH... YOU LOOK GOOD ON CAMERA! ♡
WELCOME BACK TO THE REALITY YOU BELONG TO.

I'M SO SORRY... TO MAKE YOU FEEL FRIGHTENED.
フフ...
...
YOU GOT DRAGGED ALONG BY MY OWN PRIVATE MATTERS.

...
THE POSITION YOU'RE IN... IN REALITY ...
IS THE WORLD... YOU LIVE IN.
WELL ...
DO YOU FEEL... MORE RELAXED?
YES...
COMING BACK... TO THE REALITY YOU BELONG TO...
...


IN THIS STUDIO, I EVEN FEEL COMFORTED ...
NOT ONLY DO I FEEL RELAXED ...

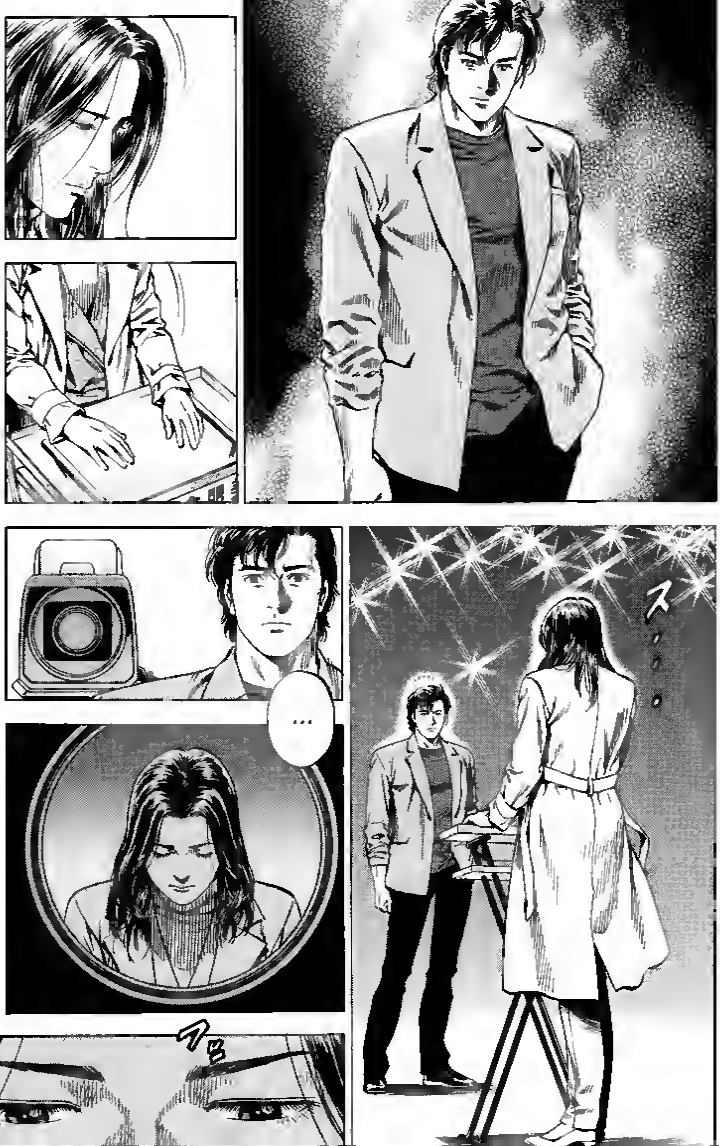
浅倉朋美

...
AND THOSE IN THE SAME YEAR AS ME ARE ALL MARRIED OR WITH SOMEONE RICH BECAUSE OF WORK... OR THEY'VE FOUND THEIR OWN PATH TO WALK...
BUT ME.. I HAVE NO WAY OF DODGING MARRIAGE NOR DO I HAVE THE GUTS TO BE INDEPEN-DENT...

AN OVERZEAL-OUS FEMALE NEWSCASTER WHO HAD NO CHANCE OF ADVANCEMENT.. AND THE WAY EVERYONE HERE PERCEIVES ME...

I WANTED TO ESCAPE FROM HERE.. THIS PLACE WAS HARD ON ME...
BUT ...

AND FALLING FOR SOMEONE SO DIFFERENT FROM ME... YOU, WHO HAD SOME SPECIAL QUALITY...
I WANTED TO DISCOVER FOR MYSELF A NEW 'ME'... THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO DO A STORY ON HOSTS.
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN AN ESCAPE FROM A PLACE THAT SUFFOCATES ME...
BUT I CAME OUT EMPTY HANDED, AND WAS LEFT SPINNING ON THE GROUND...
IT'S TOO DIFFERENT... FROM MY WORLD.
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE FROM THE START...
IT DOESN'T FIT...
RYO... YOU AND THIS STUDIO DON'T MATCH AT ALL...


…
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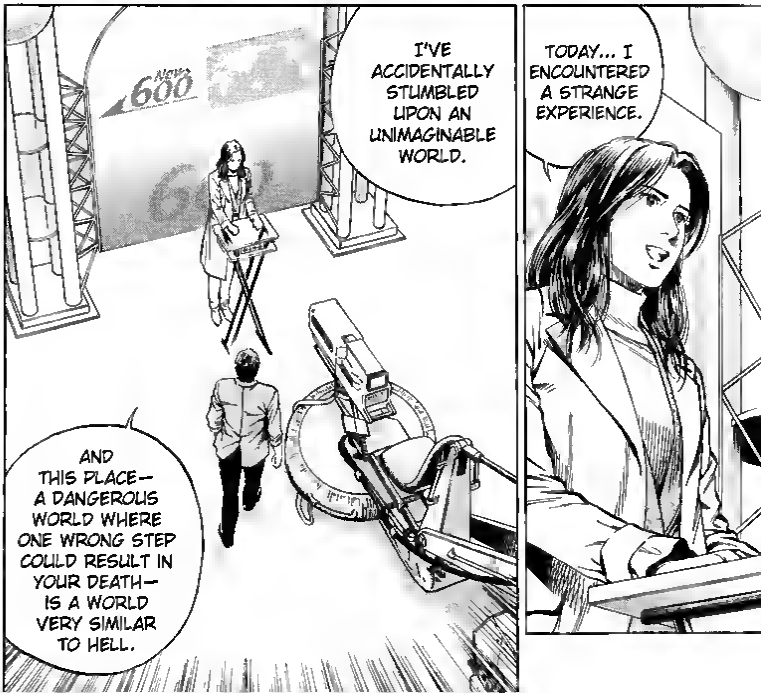
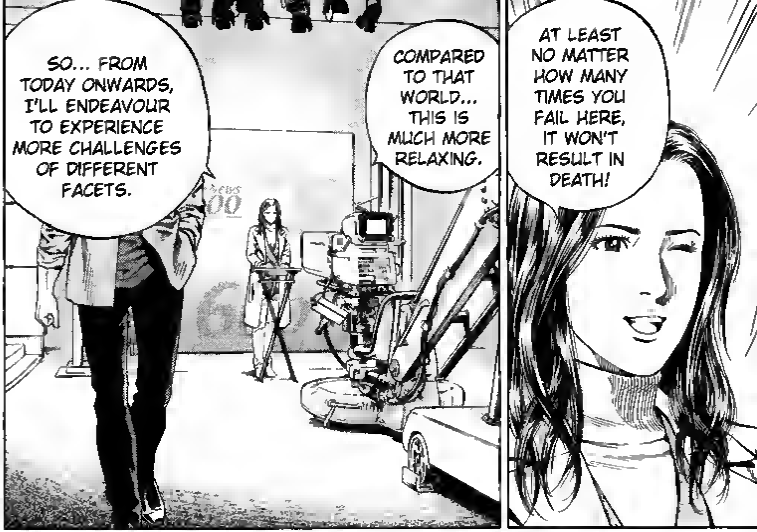
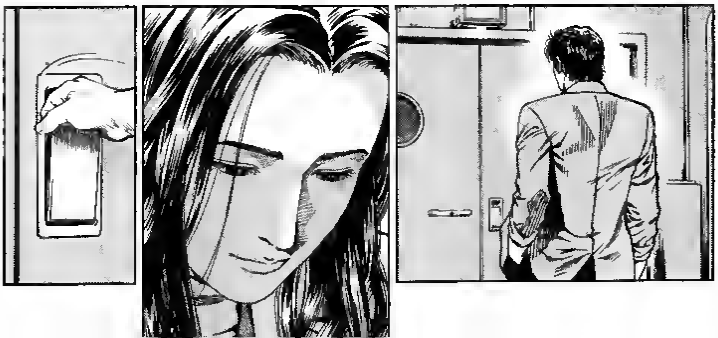
I'M YOUR NEWSCASTER, TOMOMI ASAKURA.
GOOD EVENING. IT'S NOW TIME FOR NEWS 600.


News 600
I'VE ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLED UPON AN UNIMAGINABLE WORLD.
TODAY... I ENCOUNTERED A STRANGE EXPERIENCE.
AND THIS PLACE— A DANGEROUS WORLD WHERE ONE WRONG STEP COULD RESULT IN YOUR DEATH— IS A WORLD VERY SIMILAR TO HELL.

...
WHAT'S EVEN HARDER TO IMAGINE IS... SOME PEOPLE VIEW IT AS A PART OF THEIR LIVES.
I DON'T HAVE THE BRAVERY TO VENTURE ON ONE MORE STEP.
STILL ...
I... EVEN THOUGH I ONLY GOT TO SEE A SMALL PORTION OF THAT WORLD...
ALTHOUGH THIS WORK-PLACE CAN BE HARD...
THIS IS A COMPLETELY NEW ME I'M ACKNOW-LEDGING AGAIN.
THE LIFE THAT I SHOULD BE LIVING... IS RIGHT HERE!


SO... FROM TODAY ONWARDS, I'LL ENDEAVOUR TO EXPERIENCE MORE CHALLENGES OF DIFFERENT FACETS.
COMPARED TO THAT WORLD... THIS IS MUCH MORE RELAXING.
AT LEAST NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU FAIL HERE, IT WON'T RESULT IN DEATH!

EVERYONE, PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR SUPPORT!
FROM TODAY ON...



MR. SAEBA ...!
... AND THAT'S ALL! I'M TOMOMI ASAKURA.
WELL THEN EVERY-ONE...
R...o
FAREWELL!
news 600

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

... FAREWELL ...
GOOD EVENING,
IT'S NOW TIME FOR NEWS 600.
I'M YOUR NEWSCASTER, TOMOMI ASAKURA.

AND TONIGHT I ASK EVERYONE TO ACCOMPANY ME DURING THIS TIME!
AND NOW ON TO OUR FIRST PIECE OF NEWS.
I ASK ALL OF YOU TO DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THESE SHOCKING IMAGES
THIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE WE'VE JUST RECEIVED.
I'M HOOME!

?
AHH... I'M HUNGRY! AH-SHAN, GIMME WHATEVER YOU HAVE NOW...
とんちゃん
とんちゃん
AH...
BAN... AND FANG-YU AS WELL ...
HEY HEY, RYO-PAPA, YOU'RE BACK!
RYO— NO WONDER SHE'S KAORI'S DAUGHTER, SHE'S SUCH A HEAVY DRINKER!
SHE'S UNDER-AGED!
DON'T BE SO STRICT! RYO, HERE'S THREE GLASSES, CHEERS.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
はは
THAT'S ENOUGH! WHY DON'T YOU PISS OFF BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY!
はは

Chapter 165 Yang's Request?

HI, RYO!

HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE...?
...

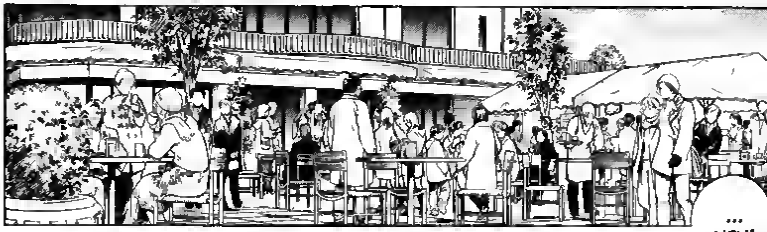
UHH ...
ぱ。。。ん

YOU DIMWIT. IT'S ME!

FANG-YU! WHAT, YOU'RE STILL IN JAPAN!?
MS. YANG!
YOU'RE SO COLD... AND HERE I AM, ALL DRESSED UP FOR A DATE...
Flick
DATE?
Who would dare date a woman as dangerous as you..?
W-WAIT, YOU MEANT WITH ME!?
YOU FORGOT MY BIRTHDAY E-MAIL, BUT I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK FOR THE PRICE OF ONE DATE. YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME.
I DIDN'T AGREE TO THIS!
HUH?
COME ON, LET'S GO!
...?

Give it up!
Ahh!
LET GO OF ME, DAMN IT!
LATER SHANIN. I'LL BE BORROWING YOUR PAPA.
RIGHT ...

...
Ha ha ha...


... HEY!

ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO TELL YOU...
YOU KNOW ...

AHH~~ HM...?
RYO ...

...

OH...
WHAT IS IT, FANG-YU?
...
OH RIGHT... TELL ME THE REASON WHY YOU DIDN'T SEND ME MY BIRTHDAY E-MAIL
I-IT'S THE TRUTH.
LIES, THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULD JUST FORGET.
SPIT IT OUT ALREADY!
I JUST TOTALLY FORGOT!
TH-THE REASON ?
...?

RYO! HEYY! RYO~~!
D
MS. YANG!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN HIDE FROM ME!
WHERE'S RYO? IT'S NO USE HIDING HIM!
HE HASN'T RETURNED YET. WASN'T HE WITH YOU?
Umm... your boots...
THAT BASTARD JUST TOOK OFF!
DAMN HIM...

WAIT ...
ON THE 25TH...?
...
Uhh... wearing a skirt and sitting like that...
THE REASON WHY HE FORGOT TO E-MAIL YOU?
YEAH. HE WENT TO THE RESTROOM AS SOON AS I ASKED ABOUT IT... AND THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF HIM.
男友
YOUR BIRTHDAY WAS ON CHRISTMAS, RIGHT?
YEAH!
THEN THAT'S RIGHT. . ON CHRISTMAS DAY, I ..
SNEEZED ...
I...
AH...CHOO!

AH...
JUST GOT A LITTLE ITCHY, AND--
AH-SHAN ...?
IT'S NOTHING... MY NOSE ...
AH... CHOO!
AH-CHOO!
?
HAHA... IS SOMEONE SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT ME?
HUH!?
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAUGHT A COLD!?

I... I DIDN'T. MY NOSE JUST...
SHUT UP AND SLEEP! YOU'RE UNDER QUARAN-TINE!
もおぉ～ぉ
...
IT MIGHT BE THE FLU! IT COULD BE LIFE-THREATENING FOR YOU SINCE YOU'RE ON IMMUNOSUP-PRESSANTS!
BUT... PAPA...
Click
LISTEN UP! YOU ARE TO REST! I FORBID YOU TO LEAVE THIS ROOM!

SAY, PAPA...
SCREW YOUR OTHER PATIENTS!
DOC! SHANIN'S IN TROUBLE! SHE MUST HAVE CAUGHT A COLD, I WANT YOU TO SEE HER RIGHT AW— WHAT?
...
YOU'RE WORRYING TOO MUCH THERE'S REALLY NOTHING WRONG WITH ME...
WOULD YOU PLEASE CALM DOWN!
DOC, HOW IS SHE?
GO TO SLEEP! YOU ARE TO REST!
THE DOCTORS SAY IT'S PROBABLY NOT A BIG DEAL . BUT PAPA, HE SAID THAT IT PROBABLY DOESN'T MEAN IT'S A SURE THING!
...
LIKE I WAS IN PRISON! IT WAS ONLY AFTER THREE WHOLE DAYS THAT HE LET ME OUT OF BED!
THAT PAPA... HE KEPT WATCH OVER ME THE ENTIRE TIME...

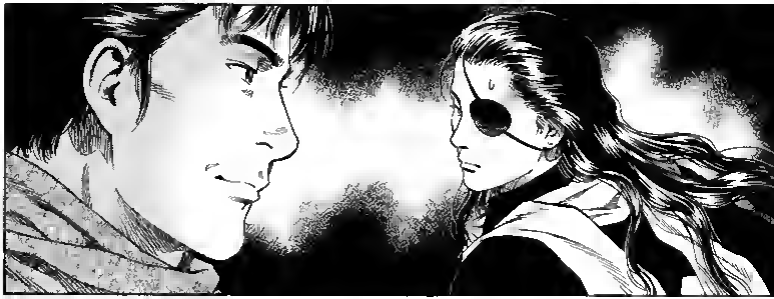
KEHAH HA HAH KAHAHA...
...?
KE... HEH... HA.
THAT SELF-DECLARED WOMANIZER, SAYING THOSE WORDS...
HE MUST'VE BEEN SO EMBARRASSED HE COULDN'T TELL ME.
GREAT JOB PLAYING FATHER! THAT RYO!
あはは
は
AH-SHAN... YOU TOLD HER...?
AH～～～ HAHAHAHA HAHAA!
It's even funnier seeing him in person
HUH? UM... WELL...
RYO...

...
AH, YOU'RE REALLY SO FUNNY—— RYO.
DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BECOME A TERRIFIC PAPA...
OH! I THINK I'M GONNA SNEEZE. IT MIGHT BE A COLD AGAIN—!
...
I'LL GO LIE DOWN, OKAY?
CAN IT. IF YOU DON'T SHUT THAT TRAP OF YOURS...
... I SEE...
THAT'S JUST... HOW IT GOES.

I'M LEAVING ...!
FANG-YU ...
I'M NOT INTER-ESTED IN GUYS LIKE YOU!
LET GO AND WHAT, WITH A MAN WHO'S BECOME A FATHER THROUGH AND THROUGH? YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
WAIT, YOU'RE GOING? WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF OUR DATE?
YOU FORGOT SOMETHING ...

WHEN DID YOU? GIVE THAT BACK!
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ALL THIS TIME WHAT'S INSIDE.
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED ME TO DO, RIGHT?

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO HOLD BACK. IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, I WON'T RETURN THIS TO YOU.



GEEZ ...

IF YOU HAD FORGOTTEN TO E-MAIL ME BECAUSE OF SOMETHING STUPID, I WOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED TO STRANGLE YOU.
I HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED ...
...
BUT SOMEHOW I JUST KNEW YOU WERE WRAPPED UP IN BEING A FATHER
SNEEZING ...
I'M STILL MORE DEPENDABLE THAN THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING TO PROTECT.
RUNNY NOSE, NASAL CONGESTION, COUGHING, AND A MILD FEVER...
?
IF YOU HAD THESE SYMPTOMS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO, RYO?

BUT WHAT IF ITS SYMPTOMS WERE LIKE THE COMMON COLD, BUT CAUSED BY A UNKNOWN VIRUS?
THAT'S JUST AN ORDINARY COLD, RIGHT? IT WOULD CLEAR UP ON ITS OWN.
YES... YOU WON'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO IT...
WHAT IF A CERTAIN COUNTRY WERE TO DEVELOP SUCH A BIO-LOGICAL WEAPON?
IF THE DISEASE SPREAD, EVERYONE WOULD THINK IT'S JUST THE COMMON COLD.
WHAT IF IT WERE A VIRAL INFECTION WITH A MORTALITY RATE OF OVER 90% AND THOSE WERE JUST THE INITIAL SYMPTOMS ...
BY THE TIME WE'D REALIZE IT, IT WOULD ALREADY BE TOO LATE. THIS DISEASE WOULD BE WIDE SPREAD OVER THE COUNTRY...
ONE OF THE RESEARCHERS GOT APPREHENSIVE AFTER DISCOVERING ITS FORMIDABLE POWER, THAT'S HOW I WAS CONTACTED!

RIGHT, I'M IN CHARGE OF DESTROYING IT...
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT'S ...
バサッ
SO...
WILL YOU HELP ME?
AH—
YOU ...
WANT ME TO H-HELP YOU...?

この物語はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・
事件等には、いっさい関係ありません。

BUNCH COMICS

エンジェル・ハート⑮

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